

WEST BROM team group

SHOOT!

28p

30th JANUARY, 1982

Arsenal's Graham Rix shields the ball from this determined challenge by Gary Rowell of Sunderland.

TWO WAYS TO
SPAIN FOR
GRAHAM RIX

WORLD CUP
STARS IN
ACTION

F.A. Cup Fourth Round Previews

PLUS Arthur Graham-Gordon Strachan-
Gary Shaw-Phil Thompson-
Ray Wilkins-Justin Fashanu
Danny McGrain

Don't beware of 'Bobby'

"BULLDOG Bobby", the mascot chosen for England's World Cup campaign, has been given an overwhelming vote of support by our readers.

We invited them to send us their opinion of the controversial mascot chosen by the Football Association after the Minister for Sport Neil MacFarlane and most of Fleet Street's national newspapers had condemned the animal's fangs and beer-belly as representing the hooligan element among England supporters.

The vast majority of our readers believe that "Bulldog Bobby" symbolises the Winston Churchill spirit that will be needed by England if they are to make any impact at the World Cup Finals in June and July.

SHOOT view!

They fully support Football Association secretary Ted Croker's assertion: "We did consider the mascot's appearance, but although it does give an impression of strength, the bulldog is a gentle animal."

That opinion is held also by many of our readers.

"The bulldog has been symbolic of our grit and ferocity for decades," argues Mr J. H. Moore, of Barrow-in-Furness.

A sample of the shoal of letters received on the subject is carried on our News Desk overleaf.

They justify our belief that no finer mascot could have been selected by the F.A., to fly the flag in Spain.

The Christian name "Bobby" has been chosen with great care, too, at Lancaster Gate. Can there be a finer name than that for our World Cup bulldog after the stirring deeds of Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton, who both won World Cup winners medals and wore the white shirt of England a total of 214 times between them?

Just study the features of the mascot and ask yourself a simple question: "Does he really look a villain?"

The answer, according to SHOOT readers, is a very firm NO.



Manchester City's Tommy Hutchison has a score to settle with Coventry.



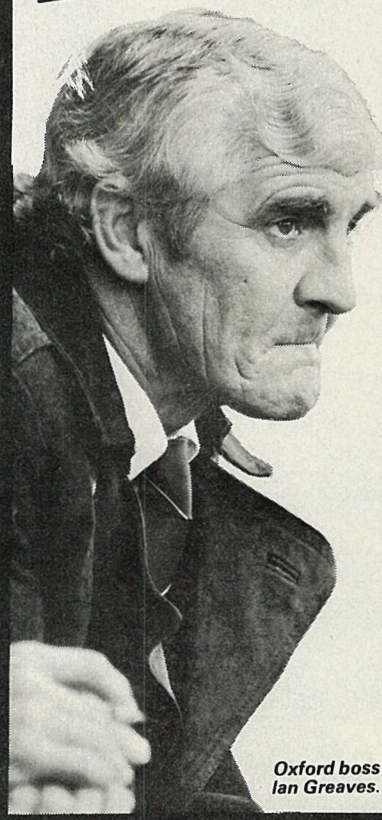
F.A. Cup

Fourth Round Draw

Brighton v Oxford
Bristol City v Aston Villa
Blackpool v
Q.P.R. or Boro
Chelsea or Hull
v Wrexham
Carlisle or H'Field v Orient
Crystal Palace v Wrexham
Gillingham v WBA
Luton v Ipswich
Man. City v Coventry
N'Castle or Colchester
v Grimsby
Norwich v Doncaster
Rotherham or
Sunderland
v Liverpool
Scunthorpe or
Hereford
v Leicester
Shrewsbury v
Burnley or
Altrincham
Tottenham v Leeds
Watford v West Ham

More giants

BETTING: 4-1 Liverpool, 5-1 Ipswich, 6-1 Spurs, 7-1 Man. City, 8-1 WBA, 10-1 A. Villa, West Ham, 16-1 Brighton, 20-1 Leeds, 33-1 Watford, 40-1 BAR.



Oxford boss
Ian Greaves.

EVERY week, from January to April, soccer journalists make themselves look idiots. We're not alone, though. Most fans feel that way. The F.A. Cup has that effect.

Predicting football is always hazardous, but the F.A. Cup makes life even harder.

We were left with egg on our faces after the Third Round. But — be honest — how many of you gave Wrexham a chance of beating Nottingham Forest... who would have thought Aston Villa would put six past Notts County, without Peter Withe, etc. etc?

It looks so easy. Take BRIGHTON against OXFORD for instance. Brighton have been one of the First Division's toughest nuts to crack this season.

Strong defence... powerful midfield... Ritchie and Robinson up front to snatch the goals.

Oxford, meanwhile, were a whisker away from folding until millionaire publisher Robert Maxwell ensured survival with a personal guarantee of £120,000.

They're halfway up (or down) the Third Division and even the most fervent Oxford fan must have reservations about the trip to the South Coast.

That's looking at it logically; the F.A. Cup defies all logic, though,

and Oxford are our tips to be the giantkillers of the Fourth Round.

Their manager, Ian Greaves, loves situations like this and he'll have his team in the right frame of mind for the task that awaits them. By 4.40 on Saturday Oxford could be celebrating a place in the Fifth Round.

It's been said that it'll be a poor Cup this season. Too many good teams have already gone out — with two more First Division clubs certain to bite the dust this weekend.

What's forgotten is that too many Finals have failed to live up to expectations. The Spurs v Manchester City replay last season was the most exciting Final most SHOOT readers can remember.

There's also a case to be made for 'unlikely' teams having a share of the spotlight, as Exeter did last year.

You just can't keep SPURS out of the limelight, though. The holders meet LEEDS at White Hart Lane and the new West Stand will be packed to capacity (it brings in £60,000 for Spurs when it's sold out, incidentally) to see their sixth home Cup-tie this season in the two domestic competitions.

Spurs have had to travel outside London only once in their last 14



WBA's Cyrille Regis will be gunning for Gillingham.

F.A. Cup-ties — and even then it was for a Semi-Final on neutral territory!

Allan Clarke isn't worried by the home advantage Spurs have — or the Londoners' tremendous Cup record.

The Leeds manager says: "I have a sneaking feeling that our name is on the Cup. If we're going to win it, it seems as if we'll do it the hard way, but you have to meet the best sometime."

His opposite number Keith Burkinshaw replies: "The Cup brings the best out of us. The attitude, aggression and work-rate that's occasionally lacking in the League is there for the Cup."

"If we maintain this we could go all the way again, but I don't like to look too far ahead."

COVENTRY old boy Tommy Hutchison lit the fuse for MANCHESTER CITY'S home tie by saying: "Coventry sold me before I was ready to leave and I'd love to prove how wrong they were."

"They wouldn't have unloaded me if they had known I was going to play as I have since."

"They thought I was finished in the First Division and I hope to give them my answer on Saturday."

City — Manchester that is — have had a tremendous revival under John Bond, rising from the

bottom to the top of the First Division. Their form in Cup competitions has also been good, although there are still doubts about them.

Coventry may just be the 'unfancied' team to go places this year.

Probably the pick of the Fourth Round is the 'all First Division' clash between LUTON and IPSWICH. Bar a sensation, that's where The Hatters will be next season and they have a chance to show the country they can beat the best.

"They don't come any better than Ipswich," says Luton manager David Pleat. "Everything about them is right... the board, management and players... they have the sort of set-up we'd like to emulate."

"It'll be a good yardstick for us to measure the progress we're making."

"Yes, it's a tricky one," acknowledged Ipswich boss Bobby Robson. "They have a small ground, the pitch could be sticky, but our experience will be an advantage."

"We're going to need all our best qualities to win, though."

Down the M1 a few miles WATFORD will be entertaining WEST HAM... and the emphasis should be on entertainment at Vicarage Road.

Elton John's rocket men have some impressive First Division

scalps to their credit, notably Manchester United, Forest, Wolves and Southampton in recent years.

"Our two League games with them last season were corkers," says Hammers' skipper Billy Bonds.

One man who can't wait for Saturday is Gerry Summers. He left GILLINGHAM last year under controversial circumstances and is now coach to WEST BROM.

Indeed, since Summers' arrival Albion have started to buzz, although he knows how difficult it will be in front of a 16,000 all-ticket crowd.

West Brom won't win the League and they know their only chance of glory in what has been a difficult season for them is in Cup competition. They could be lucky, especially as Cyrille Regis seems to be scoring regularly.

Some of the other ties don't conjure up the same sort of excitement, but the teams involved will if they reach the next round.

DONCASTER, managed by that old war horse Billy Bremner, will be there... if they beat NORWICH, conquerors of our Cup 'dark horses' Stoke in Round Three.

● The Scottish Cup has been badly bit by the big freeze and we apologise to Scottish readers for not including a preview to their Third Round, but at Press time the draw was so unclear it wasn't possible.

set to crash

Ipswich's Alan Brazil scores in his side's Third Round win at Birmingham (below). Leeds boss Allan Clarke (right) will be looking for that kind of form from his strikers at Spurs this week.



Lee's lads shine

HOWARD KENDALL has turned the tide at Goodison Park. After a couple of depressing seasons things appear to be on the up at Goodison Park.

But, Kendall is doing it without the majority of the 'magnificent seven' that he signed in the summer. In fact, he's doing it with a team moulded by his predecessor Gordon Lee!

Only goalkeeper Neville Southall, Kendall himself and winger Alan Irvine were not on the books when Lee was sacked.

The deal which finally brought Irvine South from the Scottish side Queen's Park had been set up by Lee, though.

Mickey Thomas has already left the club, and Alan Biley is reported to be unhappy. Kendall would let him go for the right price.

Manchester City boss John Bond recently made an enquiry about unsettled Everton full-back John Bailey.

He offered Nicky Reid to Howard Kendall as bait. The cash adjustment would obviously have been in City's favour, but Kendall's valuation of Reid didn't match Bond's and the deal fell through.

Thrill

MILLIONS of TV viewers were thrilled by the way sub Barry Venison snatched victory for Sunderland at Manchester City.

In only ten minutes, he helped make the equaliser then shot a stunning winner.

It was the high-spot of the local lad's rapid surge into the first team squad at Roker Park at the age of 17.

Now, he has been rewarded for his progress with the chance to become a full professional — eight months earlier than usual.

'Make your choice, Ron'

says Ray Clemence

ENGLAND goalkeeper Ray Clemence is quite happy to share the number one spot with his good friend Peter Shilton... but only for the time being.

Speaking on a Radio London phone-in show recently, the Spurs star said: "The system of using Peter and I in alternate games has been okay up till now, but it's about time Ron Greenwood picked his number one."

"We can't go to the World Cup Finals next summer trying to keep two goalkeepers happy. I'm sure Ron will use our fixtures between now and then to reach a decision."

"Both Peter and I want to be first choice and Joe Corrigan will also be in with a chance because he's having a good season with Manchester City."

"If we continue as we are now it could be quite farcical in Spain. Just imagine we get to the Final, for example. It would mean changing the goalkeeper from the Semi-Final and that would be laughable."

"I realise the decision could go against me, of course, but I think it's in England's interests to pick the goalkeepers in 1-2-3 order."

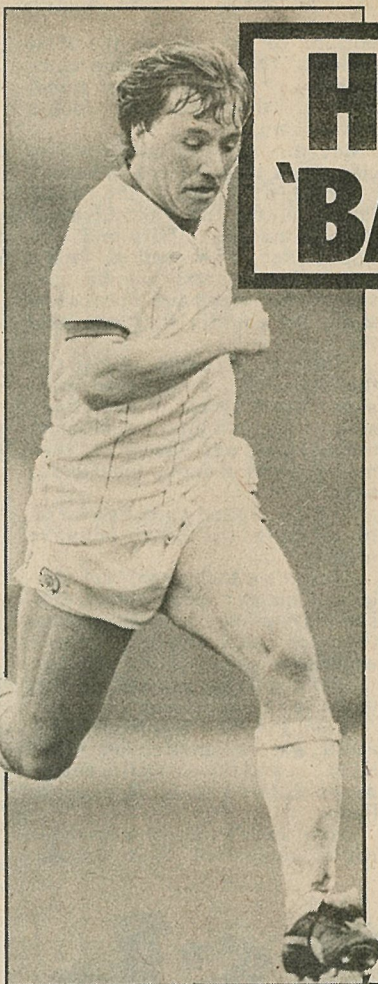
Rangers' star tipped for Spain

RANGERS' defender John McClelland has the best possible incentive to get fit following his recent ankle operation — a place in Northern Ireland's World Cup squad.

Ireland have few players to choose from and the big Ibrox star, who cost £95,000 from Mansfield last year, is virtually a cert to go to Spain... if he's fit.

"I went to Belfast when the lads beat Israel to qualify," he says. "I would have loved to have joined in the lap of honour, but my leg was still in plaster."

"My first target is a place in Rangers' first team and then, hopefully, Spain."



HAMSON LOSES 'BAD BOY' IMAGE

IT'S always good to see a reformed character making his mark in the game — and that's certainly the case with Leeds United's Gary Hamson.

Last season Hamson, who joined Leeds for £140,000 during Jimmy Adamson's managership, was a thoroughly unhappy young man with a large chip on his shoulder — he admits it.

He accumulated an incredible 42 disciplinary points, was sent off three times in Leeds' reserve side, and generally made a nuisance of himself.

Manager Allan Clarke despaired and after numerous talking to sessions with Hamson, placed him on the transfer list.

The former Sheffield United youngster always had the ability, but his problem was twofold. He was constantly in verbal warfare with referees and he was living in

Nottingham — which is a long way from Leeds.

Well he still lives there — but he now appears to have solved his other problem. He has been a model of good behaviour this season and has matured considerably as a person.

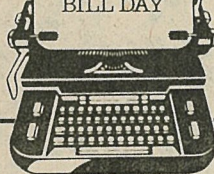
That has been reflected in his performances, and since winning a place in the first team against Manchester United in September, he has buckled down to his job so well that he has kept out players of the class of Brian Flynn, Byron Stevenson and Peter Barnes.

He is currently the most consistent and popular member of the team — along with Arthur Graham perhaps.

To cap that new-found success Gary scored the second goal in Leeds' first away win of the season at Stoke — and that was his first Football League goal for exactly two years.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



FORMER Eire goalkeeper Freddie Kiernan died recently in Southampton. He played for several League of Ireland clubs before joining Saints where he lived after retirement.

IF previous seasons are a guideline then Bohemians, the halfway leaders, should win the Championship in Eire this term. In three of the past five seasons the leaders at Christmas have gone on to win the League.

LAST year was the Chinese Year of the Cockerel. And Tottenham, whose emblem is the cockerel, had a good year winning the F.A. Cup.

This year the Chinese year is dedicated to the dog. It's now 50 years since Huddersfield Town won the Cup. Maybe this will be a lucky year for The Terriers!

SCOTT MCGARVEY — United's star find

MANCHESTER UNITED admit that the only home produced players to come through their nursery system to win a regular place at League level in the past six years are Andy Ritchie and Mike Duxbury.

And a condemnation of United's weakness in this department is that Ritchie was not considered good enough for United and went to Brighton and Duxbury has failed to win a regular place in the team at Old Trafford.

Scott McGarvey seems certain to be the next youngster to crack the barrier which exists between the Central League and the first team.

Scott has been scoring goals in the reserves for two seasons and has had a run out in the League team recently.

Norman Whiteside, an outstanding prospect from Belfast, is another youngster tipped to win glory at Old Trafford.

Eric Harrison, the man responsible for young players at Manchester United, is confident that he can arrest a decline which set-in after Matt Busby's retirement as manager.



'Don't condemn me'

pleads Albion Star

GARY OWEN, West Bromwich Albion's midfield star, believes his reputation has suffered because his critics condemn him for being a "money grabber".

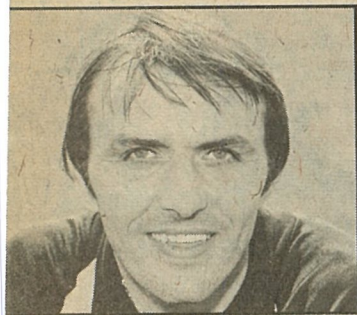
His row with Albion over money has been exaggerated out of all proportions, claims Owen. He wants more money; Albion are resisting his claim.

"I do not think I am asking for the earth," he says. "All I want is for my wages to keep pace with inflation. That has not happened since I moved down to The Hawthorns from Manchester City

three years ago.

"When I first signed, I failed to notice the contract did not include a cost-of-living clause. That was my mistake, I accept that. I was trying to do Albion a favour by getting the deal through quickly."

"That rush job backfired on me." But Owen wants to put right another misconception. He does not want to leave West Bromwich Albion, he says.



RIMMER'S NEW VENTURE

JIMMY RIMMER, Aston Villa's goalkeeper, now appears set to remain in the West Midlands.

The former Manchester United, Swansea City and Arsenal goalkeeper, one of the older members of the Villa side these days, has recently opened a sports shop in a Birmingham suburb.

He feels that this business will help him in the future although he is quick to point out that he has no intention of quitting the game at present.

ROUGH FOR SALE?

SCOTLAND's World Cup goalkeeper Alan Rough could be leaving Partick Thistle after 15 years at Firhill.

Rough, Thistle's most marketable property, may have to go to help hard-up Partick out of their financial straits. They reckon they will lose something in the region of £250,000 at the end of the season.

Chairman Miller Reid says: "We've got to be logical and say every single player is available at the right price. Sadly, that includes Alan Rough."

Don't be surprised if Hibs, managed by Rough's former Firhill boss Bertie Auld, come in with a bid before the end of the season.

Relegation-threatened Thistle may be looking for something like £250,000 for Rough... Hibs may be willing to part with just under £200,000.

Rough says: "I'm in no rush to leave Thistle. I'm confident we can stay in the Premier Division. Obviously the thought of playing in the First Division next term doesn't appeal to me. We'll just have to wait and see what develops."



THE Bulldog Bobby mascot condemned by the Minister for Sport and the vast majority of newspapers in Fleet Street has been given a vote of confidence.

He does not represent the hooligan element who bring shame to England when they follow the team abroad for internationals.

"Bulldog Bobby" is courageous, reliable, devoted to duty, and never knows when he is beaten.

He is the perfect four-legged specimen to fly the flag for the Football Association when England attempt to win the World Cup in five months time.



The majority of SHOOT readers are happy to adopt him as England's mascot.

Only a few thought he symbolised soccer hooliganism. "He looks too friendly for that," they said.

SHOOT's £10 prize for the most original letter goes to Daniel Spurr, Dyfed, Wales, who argues that "Winston" might be more appropriate than "Bobby".

"Bulldogs are very loyal, home loving, affectionate and incredibly comical at times," says Daniel, aged 17, who just happens to own a bulldog.

"Ours is nearly human," he says. "He dribbles and heads a ball like a professional — and is delighted when he bursts them."

"Bulldog Bobby" represents the best in English soccer, suggests Mervyn Prentice, of Reigate, Surrey.

"It brings back memories of the 1966 World Cup," says Mervyn. "It reminds people of Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton. It is a brilliant mascot."

Suggestions for alternative mascots included a red rose, a lion, and a beefeater. "A beefeater symbolises a true devotion to duty, coupled with loyalty and courage beyond compare. The very ingredients needed in Spain," advocates Robert Salton of Cambridge.

Madhu Katwala, of Sycamore Place, Whitby, Cheshire offered a drawing of his teddy bear wearing an England strip.

JOHN BOND'S 'WRONG'—Francis

MANCHESTER City boss John Bond is still raving about the screaming 20-yarder Trevor Francis scored against Wolverhampton Wanderers.

"You won't see a better goal if you live to be 150," says Bond.

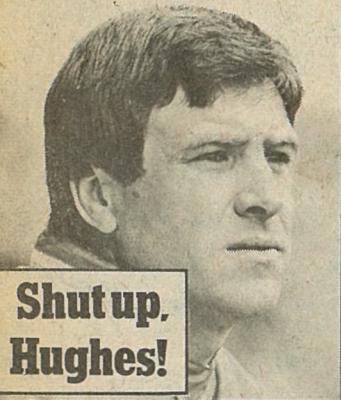
Most people would agree with the City chief. The only exception is... Trevor Francis.

City's £1 million striker reckons that a goal he scored against Wolves in 1980-81 was better than his effort at Maine Road on December 28.

He was playing for Nottingham Forest at the time — and beat goalkeeper Paul Bradshaw with a cunningly flighted chip.

Francis explains: "I found myself clear and as I looked up, saw Paul Bradshaw had come off his line. So I transferred the ball from my left foot to my right and chipped the ball over his head."

"That, technically, gave me the greatest satisfaction."



Shut up, Hughes!

AN unusual experience for Emlyn Hughes recently. Playing for Rotherham's reserve side at Mill-moor against Halifax he was shouting and bawling, as he did for Liverpool, Wolves and England.

With only a handful of people in the ground every word was audible — and one wag shouted back to Emlyn: "Shut up for goodness sake."

The player-manager was so taken aback he actually stopped running, turned to the spectator and apologised!

IT was a real F.A. Cup coincidence that two of the country's top goalkeepers should make terrible mistakes on Third Round day against their former clubs.

Pat Jennings of Arsenal allowed a harmless-looking Garth Crooks shot to trickle away from him and into the back of the net for the only goal of the North London derby against Spurs.

And Ipswich Town's Paul Cooper committed a similar error when he dropped a long-range Alan Curbishley drive to give Birmingham City a 2-1 lead.

At the end of the day, however, Paul was at least able to smile as Ipswich stormed back to win 3-2. To complete a miserable afternoon for Pat, he was injured 15 minutes before the end of his side's Cup exit.

Both 'keepers were agreed on one point. They both said later: "That was the worst mistake I've ever made!"

Darracott quits

THE former Wrexham full-back Terry Darracott, who was forced to quit the game with a knee injury, has turned to the pub trade for a new career.

Darracott, whose best days were at Everton, is now the landlord at The Royal Oak in Flint, North Wales.

He's never short of a football topic though — amongst his regulars is the Liverpool and Welsh international striker Ian Rush.

Briefly

● Fourth Division Wigan Athletic are to give four lads the chance to play for the club as part of the Government's Youth Opportunities Programme. If the four youngsters show sufficient promise the club will sign them on permanent forms after the six months.

● A Huddersfield Town

supporter writing to manager Mick Buxton under the guise of "A Genuine Fan" complained recently about the substituting of striker Tracy Austin! If the genuine fans can't tell the difference between a six-foot centre-forward and a pony-tailed tennis player, what chance do we have?

● Manchester United's perennial Northern Ireland scout, Bob Bishop, the man

who unearthed eventual superstar George Best, has an incredible Cup Final record that will take some beating.

Starfinder Bob, now 82, made history when he watched his 73rd — yes, 73rd! — consecutive Steel and Sons Cup Final this term. His first Final — annual showpiece of Irish intermediate soccer — was way back in 1909, and he's been a non-stop spectator ever since.

How to carry on collecting

TO help you build up your collection of 516 stickers, we are including another eight stickers for your Panini "Football 82" album in this issue of SHOOT.

We regret that the free stickers are not available to overseas readers.

We shall not be giving away any more, but you will be able to buy further stickers — in packets of four for 6p — through all branches of W. H. Smith, John Menzies, Martins, Alfred Preedy, N.S.S., T. Dillons (Midlands) and Sperrings (South of England).

You should also enquire at your local newsagent, and stickers will be on sale at some sweet shops.

Readers who experience difficulty in buying packets of stickers — or who only need a few more to fill gaps in their albums — should write direct to MINICARDS LTD, at the address given in the "Football 82" album.

MINICARDS LTD, distributors of the stickers in Britain, guarantee that equal numbers of each sticker have been printed and are evenly distributed throughout the country.

And don't forget you can always swap "Doubles" with your friends! Good collecting...

Peter Stewart
EDITOR



Superstars don't scare McCulloch

AIN McCulloch has never looked back since his first-half header gave newly-promoted Notts County an opening day win against the League Champions at Villa Park.

It was the start of a rise to prominence for arguably the most exciting talent to arrive on the First Division stage this season.

His pace and aggression have earned nods of approval wherever County have played — and could yet see him emerge as a candidate for Jock Stein's World Cup squad.

Said McCulloch: "Maybe that's asking a lot but I've come to realise that if you set your sights high and go for them, most things are possible in this game.

"Like all the Notts lads, I didn't know what to expect this season. The First Division was unknown territory and it was only natural that we felt inferior at the start.

"But I looked around at players the media had built into superstars and it dawned on me that I had nothing to be afraid of.

"Obviously they deserve respect. Most of them are internationals of one sort or another but it did my confidence the world of good when I realised I could still score goals and create problems."

At 26, McCulloch reckons he is a late-developer and claims his game has improved 100 per cent in each of the four years since he moved south from Kilmarnock.

Certainly he would now fetch five times the £80,000 that Jimmy Sirrel paid for him and it could be that unfashionable County will be hard-pressed to hang on to their new-found star.

McCulloch knows, however, that there's still room for considerable improvement in two facets of his

game... his work in front of goal and his disciplinary record.

His eye-for-an-eye approach brought him six bookings — and a three-match suspension — before the season reached the halfway stage, but it was the chances which got away which concerned him most.

He added: "I happen to think that I've had a rough deal from referees this season but there's no point in getting involved in that.

"I have never deliberately set out to hurt someone in my life and as far as I am concerned, I will carry on doing my job to the best of my ability.

"What bothers me more is that I'm getting into scoring positions several times in every game and not putting enough of the chances away.

'Composure'

"I've spent a lot of time in training trying to get more composure in front of goal and although I've improved this season, I've still got some way to go.

"I think my pace causes me problems at times. I find that when I run 30 yards and arrive in a scoring position, my mind is still racing.

"The biggest difference I've noticed about being in the First Division is the quality of the finishing and I'm well aware that I need to convert more of the chances which come my way."

McCulloch's honesty is refreshing and his determination to improve his game has earned generous praise from the County management.

As manager Jimmy Sirrel said when McCulloch began his three-match ban recently: "Any team in the country would miss him at the moment."

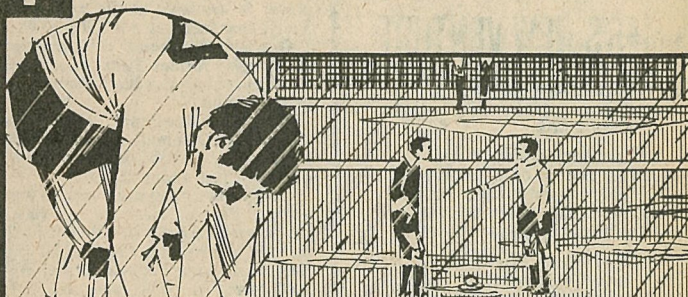
YOU ARE THE REF

compiled by Keith Hackett



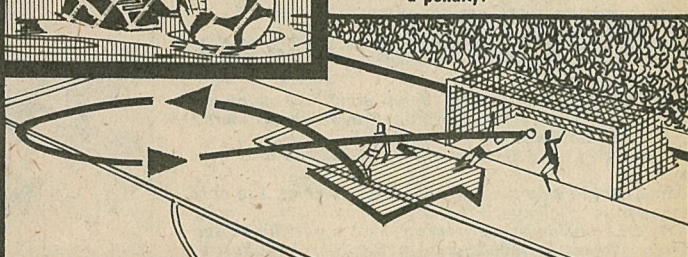
1

Because the penalty spot is under water, should you allow a penalty to be taken from a different position?



2

A defender takes a goal-kick, but due to a strong wind the ball is blown back towards goal. The defender prevents it from going into goal by handling. Should you award a penalty?



3

A player goes off to receive treatment. After a few minutes one of your linesmen points out that his substitute came on without your permission. Should you: (a) ignore the linesman and continue with the game, or (b) caution the player concerned?



MATCH POINT

I hope the F.A. Cup Fourth Round scheduled for this Saturday is back to something like normal after all the poor weather. I actually took charge of my Third Round tie — West Ham v Everton — two days before my Second Round game — Hull v Hartlepool! Because of the snow the Hull game was called off six times, four times by myself and twice by local ref John Penrose. When both games were then scheduled for the same Saturday, I handed over the Hull game to Mick Lowe, but it was cancelled again and finally played the following Monday. Mick, unfortunately, couldn't make that date and so I took charge of the game after all!

ANSWERS

1. No. The penalty must be taken from the exact position. 2. Yes. 3. Caution the player (b). Substitutes must wait for play to stop and receive your permission before entering the field of play. League referees have to take a note of all substitutions and the time they occur.

ROAMER RIX

But are his England chances being hit?

GRAHAM Rix has been given a special free role within the rigid system operated by Arsenal this season. Rix, the brilliant left-sided midfielder who has won three England caps, has been ordered to roam all over the field looking to get into the game to influence its course.

It is some tribute to Rix's natural ability that a coach as organised and disciplined as Don Howe has agreed to let the Doncaster born player have his head.

So midfielder man Rix has been adapting to a new role with The Gunners.

You may see him start a match as front partner to Alan Sunderland, but be prepared to watch him move back to collect the ball from his defenders, play a normal role in midfield or move right up front into the penalty-area. 'Rix roams' is the word from the Arsenal camp.

He moved up front when Arsenal hit a crisis after Frank Stapleton's departure. No new partner had been found on a permanent basis for Alan Sunderland after inconclusive displays by John Hawley, Brian McDermott, Paul Vaessen and Raphael Meade. Rix was tried and the move worked — so Rix says: "I am listed as a front man these days.

"Of course, with this new job, I can go anywhere. But I've been up front much more than before and have had to adapt to the knocks and bangs you get in opponents' penalty-areas.

'System'

"There are tackles coming in from behind I am not used to, but until the F.A. Cup defeat by Tottenham the system seemed to have worked fairly well."

One aspect clouds the horizon for Rix. If he stays as a virtual front man, albeit with the freedom to roam, will his chances of winning a trip to Spain with England diminish because he's no longer an orthodox midfielder player?

"It is uncertain," he admits. "But if I stay up front and Arsenal do well enough to win the League title, I'm hardly going to complain.

"I don't rule out our chances by any means. Before the break came through bad weather, we were going along ever so well.

"We had picked up superbly after a poor start and were in a position where if we could win our games in hand on the leaders, we could move up to second place."

Ron Greenwood's England plans in terms of likely players, seem harder to assess than at any time in the last four years.

As Rix says: "Every good player in England ought to be going flat out between now and the end of the season, to try and win a place on board that plane to Spain.

"Cyrille Regis has been doing it; he has hit top form. How can they keep him out?

"My change in positions may be a Catch 22 situation. But it is up to me to play well enough to ensure they cannot ignore me."

Competition

Even as a midfielder player, Rix has stiff competition for a place in the final 22 for Spain. Brooking and Devonshire, Robson and Coppell plus other obvious candidates such as McDermott, Wilkins, Mortimer and Hoddle will add to the challenge.

Places will be hard to find at the final reckoning.

Rix discovered life was good when he first made the switch to a striker's role.

"It was tremendous at first because teams didn't seem to know how to mark me. I received the ball more and I enjoyed it.

"It became more difficult after a while but now I've got this freedom role it's good.

"I still believe it could work with me as an orthodox front man."

All the switches have been caused by Arsenal's inability to replace Stapleton.

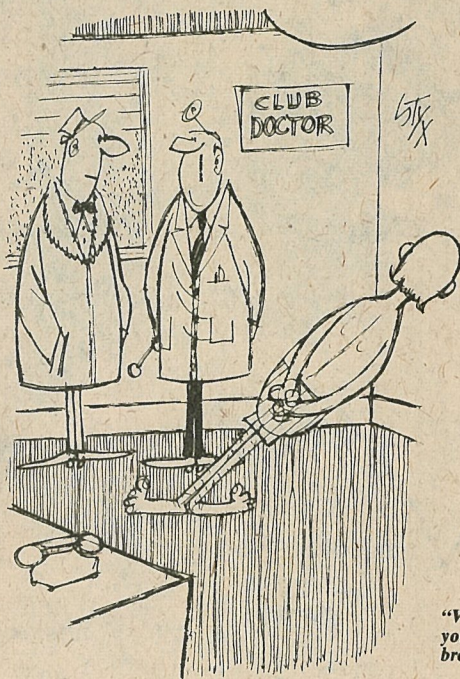
But Rix says: "I admire Terry Neill and Don Howe for not panicking and spending a million pounds on an ordinary player, which would be the easiest way out.

"It is hard to replace a player like Stapleton because there are not many players like him around. It's no good getting a second class foreign player; either, just for the sake of it.

"The manager is waiting for the right player to be available and I admire him for his coolness. People are shouting for a big money signing but football isn't as easy as that."



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



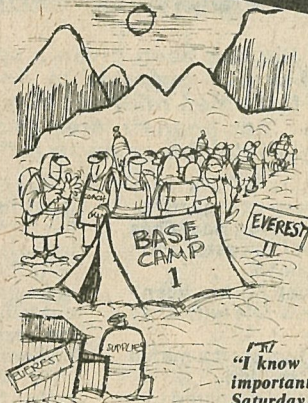
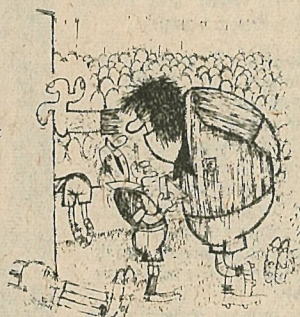
"I think we'd be better off switching him to the left wing for a while."

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"I get all sentimental when you tell me off ... reminds me of mummy."

"What a pity, I can't book you ... my pencil's broken."



"I know we've got an important Cup-tie on Saturday, boss, but aren't we overdoing this training lark?"

This week Ross Jack, Norwich's goalscorer in their 1-0 Third Round win against Stoke City, selects the cartoonist Styx.

GORDON Strachan travels with the Scottish World Cup squad to Spain this summer with advice from Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson ringing in his ears.

"Everyone knows just how much ability Gordon has," says Ferguson. "Now it's time he proved it to the world!"

"We expected big things from him when we played Hamburger SV in the U.E.F.A. Cup, but I eventually had to take him off in the second-half as the game was running away from us."

"It was criminal that I should have to do that, but we were getting very little from him."



Strachan (left) was outstanding in the U.E.F.A. Cup against holders Ipswich, but failed to recapture that form against Hamburger SV.

STRACHAN SHOCKER

"Gordon, as an international star, should have been leading our players."

"He is a high quality player with astounding talent, but he must still work at his game. He must continue to improve."

"Look at Hamburger's Felix Magath against us. He was simply outstanding because he refused point blank to be pinned down."

"Gordon seemed content to play

in a six yard area whereas Magath was willing to run all over the place, making 50 yard dashes into the danger zones."

"That was the type of performance I was wanting from Gordon. He has the talent ... the rest is up to him."

Aberdeen went out of the U.E.F.A. Cup on a 5-4 aggregate to the talented West Germans, and Strachan, who had played so well

in the earlier rounds against holders Ipswich and rugged Rumanians Arges Pitesti, never stamped his authority on the games."

He even missed a penalty-kick in the first-leg and that, too, put pressure on his team-mates."

But Strachan is the sort of bubbly, confident character who can respond to the stinging attack from his manager."

"If I'm selected to travel to Spain with the Scottish pool I'll be giving everything I've got," he says.

Strachan admits to great disappointment at losing out to Beckenbauer's boys, especially when The Dons should have murdered them in the first-leg at Pittodrie.

But the flame-haired midfielder wouldn't mind a crack at revenge if Scotland should come up against West Germany in Spain.

"I take nothing for granted in this game," says Strachan. "Playing in the World Cup would be wonderful, but I must play to top form to impress manager Jock Stein and get a place in that pool."

"That won't be easy, believe me. But if I am lucky enough to be selected there won't be a more determined player than myself out there in Spain."

Admirers

There is no way that Strachan can be held solely responsible for the Pittodrie side's exit from the European arena, but the former Scottish Player of the Year knows things might have been so different in that pulsating second-leg had he touched the form that has won him admirers throughout the country.

The World Cup Finals seems a perfect setting for Gordon Strachan to mesmerise opponents, destroy defences and parade those flashing talents that are so special.

For he can be certain that if he doesn't produce the goods in the coming months he'll be getting no favours from international boss Jock Stein.

'I WANT MY CAPTAINCY BACK'

"PHIL, I think it would be best for the club and for you if I remove you from the captaincy. I'm sorry, lad, but it's for the best."

The words of our manager Bob Paisley hit me harder than any of the many blows I've had to take in my football career. I felt choked.

I'd been suddenly called into the boss' office to receive the shattering news. Being made captain of the team I'd supported as a lad was the greatest thing that had ever happened to me — a dream come true. Being stripped of the job was like a nightmare.

Bob went on to explain his reasons for the decision. He felt that I'd personally taken too much of the blame for Liverpool's indifferent form so far, that I'd been under great pressure from the fans and the media. Consequently my game had suffered.

I'd played as though I carried a heavy burden, and Bob was sure that removal of my responsibility would allow me to concentrate on getting back to my old form.

I had to admit that my former strongpoint — playing to a high level of consistency — had been affected. My performances were ragged. One week good, the next week poor.

So if reverting to being just one of the team was going to help me, and help the club, then it was all right me. I didn't argue

with the boss and there's no bad feeling. He's an honest man and I trust him.

But I did say that I was going to pledge myself to playing so well he'd have to hand the captaincy back to me. It'll take months rather than weeks, but I'm determined. It's just a temporary setback.

In the meantime I'll be backing my successor, Graeme Souness, all the way and giving him any help he may need.

Restricted

Liverpool have always followed a policy of bringing in new players every season, but whereas in the past it's been restricted to two, this season we've used five different players from the team who played in the European Cup in Paris last June.

They're all young or inexperienced — or both.

In midfield we've used Kevin Sheedy, Ronnie Whelan, and Craig Johnston, the only one with a fair degree of First Division experience, as a Middlesbrough player.

All three are making good progress, though Ronnie is perhaps standing out as the greatest pros-

pect. I can't spot a weakness in the lad as far as ability is concerned. He can tackle, head, and shoot with both feet. He struck a goal against West Ham that Phil Parkes didn't even see!

Up front, Ian Rush is living up to his tag "The quiet killer," showing an instinct for where the goal lies that brackets him with the likes of Jimmy Greaves, Denis Law and his team-mate Kenny Dalglish.

Probably the most vital change in the team is goalkeeper. Bruce Grobelaar was pitched in without the benefit of a season as understudy to Ray Clemence, and has had his problems adjusting to the job.

At Liverpool the keeper has to act as a sweeper at times, something completely new to Bruce.

Until recently the defence would hold a discussion after every match to sort things out, correct mistakes, but now they occur only occasionally as we develop a better understanding of each other's roles.

With 1981 behind us we're looking forward to a bright new year. The signs are promising following our morale-boosting start, knocking Swansea City out of the F.A. Cup in the Third Round and then beating West Ham in the League at Anfield.

It was a reaction to all those critics

who've hailed our poor start to the season as signifying the end of an Anfield era.

So many predicted that Swansea would give us a good thrashing at the Vetch Field, and every player was one hundred per cent motivated for the game. John Toshack's men found themselves facing eleven hungry fights!

Number one target on the domestic front is still the Championship. With games in hand, and three points for a win, we can still overhaul the likes of Ipswich, our biggest rivals, and carry off the trophy.

Of the two Cups — F.A. and League — we prefer the former.

It would be especially nice to win the F.A. Cup for Bob Paisley as it would be a first time for him. He took over from the late Bill Shankly after we last won the Cup, in 1974.

Postponed

At the time of writing we still don't know whether we face Sunderland or Rotherham in the Fourth Round, as their postponed Third Round replay has still to be played.

I have a personal preference for Sunderland, a side we know a lot about and have already beaten them 2-0 in the League at Roker Park.

Rotherham's manager, my old team-mate Emlyn Hughes, will have taken a leaf out of Shanks' book and convinced his lads they're world-beaters!

I know from experience how difficult it is to K.O. a lower Division team playing as though their lives depended on the result!

For me it's a stepping stone to Wembley in May, where I hope I'll be back as captain of Liverpool, leading them out to victory!

PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world

Phil and Alan Hansen shut out Swansea's Bob Latchford in the F.A. Cup Third Round.

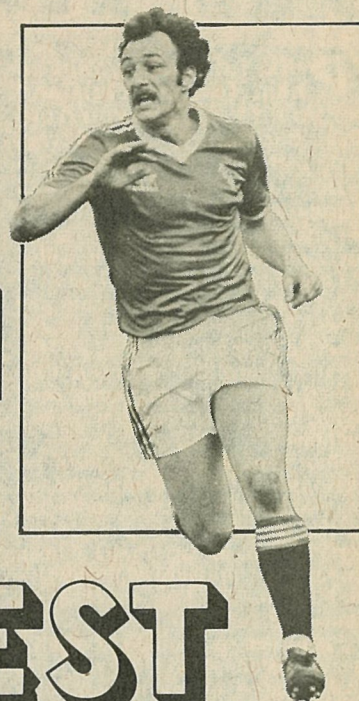
Phil Thompson

SHOOT/ adidas

Golden Shoe Awards 1981-82



Exeter marksman Tony Kellow (right) is scoring consistently again this season.



KEEGAN BEATS HIS BEST



KEVIN Keegan still leads the race for the SHOOT/adidas Golden Shoe — but only just.

For the goalscoring exploits of Cyrille Regis have not only catapulted him to the verge of full England international honours but have also put him very much in the running for our coveted award.

Five goals in four games boosted the big W.B.A. striker's tally to 12 in 18 League games.

If he can maintain that sort of form he must be a good bet for Ron Greenwood's squad for Spain.

Sensational

He could even be teaming up with Keegan, and on current form that would be a sensational partnership.

Aided by six goals from the penalty-spot, Keegan had already beaten his season's best total by the New Year.

One man who won't be taking the honour despite fine form in the first half of the season is Manchester City's Dennis Tueart.

An achilles tendon injury will

prevent Dennis from adding to his ten League goals, but look out for City team-mates Trevor Francis and Kevin Reeves, who are both in top form.

Frank Stapleton and Bob Latchford continue to justify the transfer fees splashed out on them last summer while Birmingham striker Tony Evans has proved to manager Jim Smith he is worth a regular first team place.

In the Second Division, the goals of Steve White have helped Luton open up a massive lead at the top of the table. Both are going to take some catching now.

Other promotion contenders who can boast of high-scoring players are Oldham (Roger Wyld and Paul Heaton), Barnsley (Ian Banks and Trevor Aylott) and Q.P.R. (Simon Stainrod).

Fulham's Gordon Davies must be favourite to take the Third Division award, but Exeter's ace marksman Tony Kellow won't be giving up his title without a fight.

Craig Madden of Bury is well on target to pick up the Fourth Division title, although York striker Keith Walwyn has done well to maintain his fine form in a struggling team.



Simon Stainrod scores for Q.P.R. against Norwich (above). But Dennis Tueart won't be celebrating any more goals for Man. City (left). He is out for the season because of injury.

DIVISION ONE	Goals
Kevin Keegan (Southampton)	14
Cyrille Regis (WBA)	12
Lee Chapman (Stoke)	10
Frank Stapleton (Man. Utd)	10
Dennis Tueart (Man. City)	10
Tony Evans (Birmingham)	9
Bob Latchford (Swansea)	9

DIVISION TWO	Goals
Steve White (Luton)	13
Roger Wyld (Oldham)	11
Ian Banks (Barnsley)	10
Simon Stainrod (QPR)	10
Paul Heaton (Oldham)	9
Ronnie Moore (Rotherham)	9

DIVISION THREE	Goals
Gordon Davies (Fulham)	15
Tony Kellow (Exeter)	10
Jeff Cook (Plymouth)	9
Dean White (Gillingham)	9
Keith Cassells (Oxford)	8
Nick Chatterton (Millwall)	8
Gary Heale (Reading)	8
Archie Stephens (Bristol Rovers)	8

DIVISION FOUR	Goals
Craig Madden (Bury)	16
Keith Walwyn (York)	12
Ian Allinson (Colchester)	11
Bobby Campbell (Bradford)	11
Les Mutrie (Hull)	10

Meet the stars on a PGL Soccer Holiday.



Trevor Brooking



Steve Williams



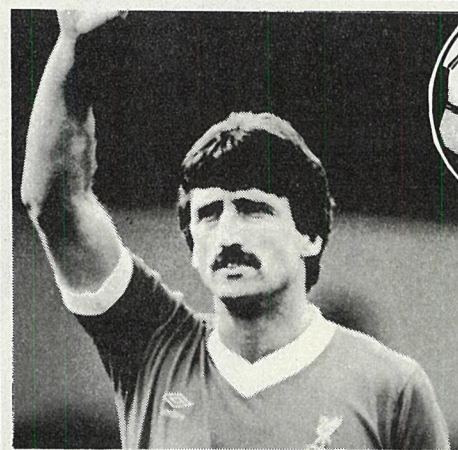
Graeme Souness



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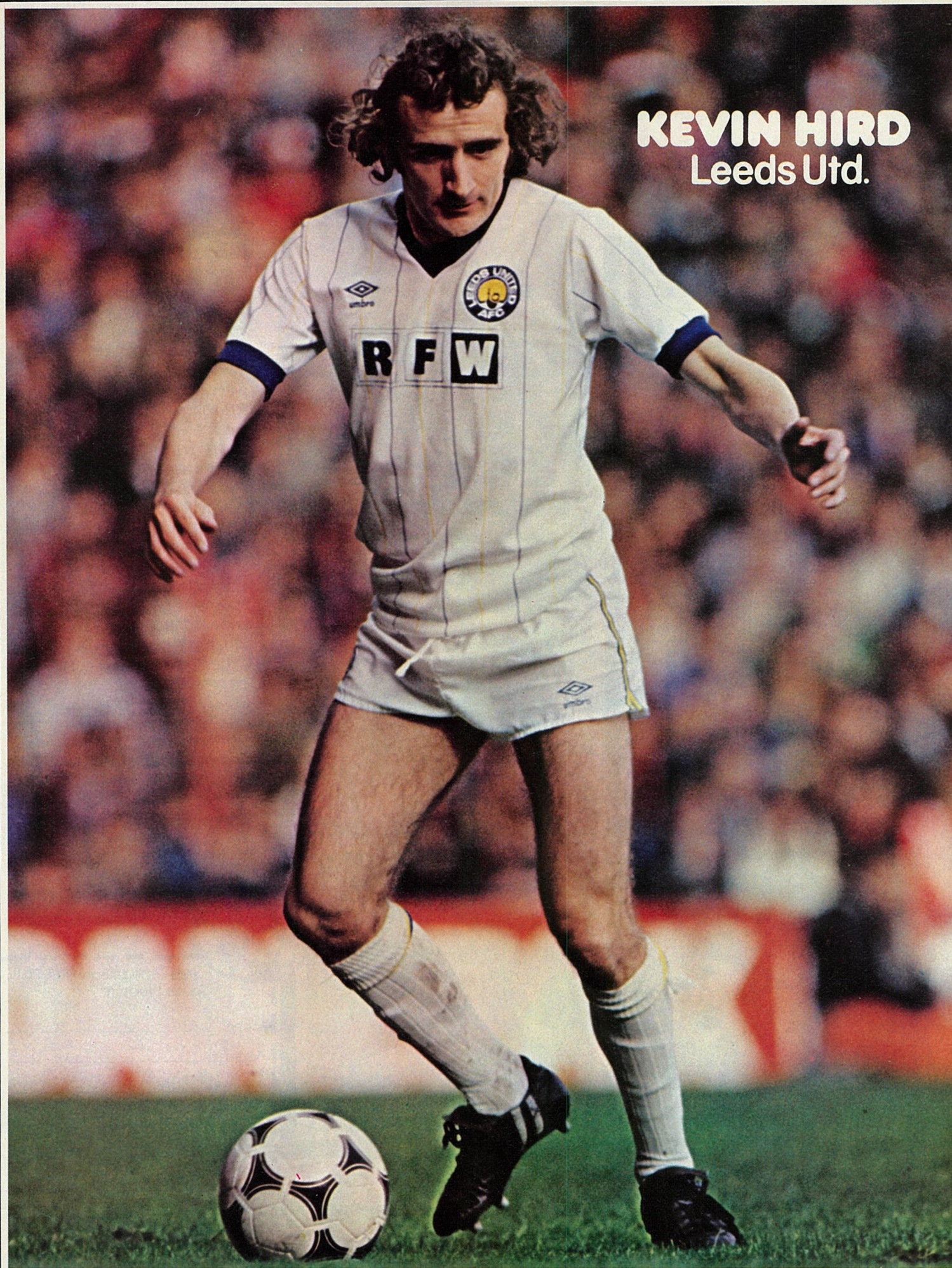
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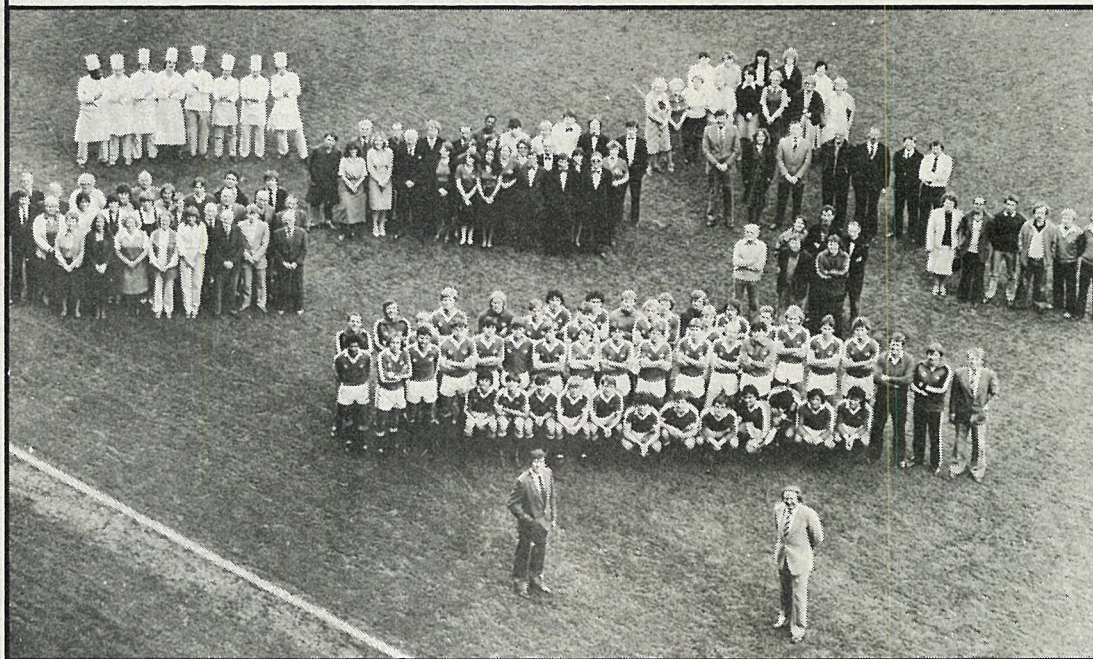
SHOOT!

CASH CRISIS

The grim financial facts of soccer life at different ends of the Football League.

Manchester United

Assets — £25 million +
Players worth £8 million



Torquay United

Assets — £41,000
Players worth £92,000



MANCHESTER United and Torquay United are almost separated by the length and breadth of the Football League. But financially, the two clubs are even further apart.

Since taking over last June, manager Ron Atkinson has spent £3.5 million on just four players — Bryan Robson, Frank Stapleton, Remi Moses and John Gidman.

His current playing staff is insured for £8 million. By comparison Torquay's 16-man playing staff, even including former Scotland skipper Bruce Rioch, is valued at £92,000.

Manchester United's wage bill is £1.1 million per year, Torquay's is approximately one fifth of that.

Torquay employ 32 members of staff. Manchester United have more than 140. Not including the players, the Fourth Division club have assets totalling some £41,000. Old Trafford alone is estimated to be worth more than £25 million.

The inequalities, then, are plain for all to see. And one man who has experienced life with both clubs is Plainmoor boss Frank O'Farrell, the man who took over for a short spell when Sir Matt Busby's reign as United manager came to an end.

"When I was with Manchester United we travelled the world in style," says O'Farrell. "At Torquay we can only look forward to trips to such places as Hartlepool.

'Early'

"We can't afford to stay in flash hotels — or anywhere. When we play up North we leave by coach early in the morning, play the game and then pick up a packet of sandwiches on the way back.

"If it's a night match we're lucky to get home by four o'clock the following morning.

"I reckon I could build a promotion-winning team with £50,000. But we just haven't got that sort of money."

That sort of money is peanuts to Manchester United, who make more than that out of their bars and restaurants in a season.

But even at Old Trafford attendances are falling. The club are currently £3 million in debt due to Atkinson's spending policy.

But is he worried about the spectre of the bank manager? If he is, he certainly isn't showing it.

"I could sell a couple of players any time and wipe our overdraft out," Atkinson smiles.

In these pictures specially taken by the *Daily Mirror*, the inequality of soccer life is clearly shown.

The Manchester United group includes eight chefs, 27 members of the catering staff, 20 workers in club administration, 27 people from the Pools, Lotteries and Stadium Improvements Dept, six-man stadium crew, six training ground staff, the 47 members of the playing staff, including coaches, kit manager and chief scout, chairman Martin Edwards and manager Ron Atkinson.

Torquay's group shows manager Frank O'Farrell, the directors and chairman Tony Boyce, eight commercial staff, four ground staff, two administrative staff and the 16-man playing staff including two coaches and one apprentice.

If any team are capable of doing the Double this season it's Ipswich Town. Ipswich, Spurs, Manchester City and — because you never write them off until it's mathematically impossible — Liverpool are all in with a chance. But my money would be on the Portman Road club.

They've had their bad patch, yet they didn't really lose any ground and their early form in 1982 suggests they're back to the sort of level they showed for 90 per cent of last season.

United were, perhaps, a little fortunate to have the game at Portman Road postponed.

Four of our first-team were unfit and no one wants to face Ipswich with anything less than at full strength.

The First Division has something of an unreal look about it, with some teams playing more games than others . . . but Ipswich have games in hand and they're still top or thereabouts.

Injured

Ipswich failed last season because things got on top of them in the last three of four weeks. They don't have Europe to contend with now and their injured stars, such as George Burley, Frans Thijssen and Paul Mariner, are all fit again.

They face a tricky Fourth Round F.A. Cup-tie at Luton, although I fancy Ipswich to win through.

Villa's Championship success last season was helped by the fact they were out of both Cup competitions and Manchester United must hope it helps us, too.

Losing to Watford was a blow for

"Ian Bolton was outstanding for Watford against us."



**RAY
WILKINS**
Writes for you

"Paul Mariner's return after injury gave Ipswich a boost."

'IPSWICH BEST BET FOR THE DOUBLE'

me, personally. I've never had a decent Cup run — I think I've played in one Fourth Round tie and that's that.

I wasn't particularly happy at the criticism I received from manager Ron Atkinson, either.

Watford deserved to win — we were awful; only Gary Bailey in goal emerged with any real credit for us.

Therefore I was unhappy when the manager said I was "getting back into my old habits" in the papers the next day. Bryan Robson didn't like being called "a joke" in public.

We felt the whole team had played badly and that we were being made scapegoats. Ron Atkinson said the midfield let us down, but we had four men in midfield, not two.

It's upsetting to be criticised in public by your own manager — in

my case it's usually been other teams' managers who have had a dig at me!

The incident's forgotten now. One reason I felt annoyed was because I believe I'm playing to a consistently high standard . . . all that's lacking is goals.

People have pointed out it's 18 months since I scored a goal — true, but as I played only about a dozen games last season that statistic is somewhat misleading.

But I must find the back of the net more often. I remember chatting with the late Bill Taylor at the last England game and he said to me: "Ray — you're there . . . all you have to do now is to start scoring."

I think once I break my duck I'll score more, like Garry Birtles has done.

I'm 25 now and I don't believe I'm at my peak. There's a bit more to come yet. My own view is that players are at their best at 28 — they're still young in terms of fit-

ness, but experienced enough to have a lot of know-how.

The Championship will be a photo-finish and despite dropping a few points recently United can still do it.

Manchester City's rise to the top has spurred us on, although I don't see City as Champions. Asa Hartford and Trevor Francis have made a big difference, yet I don't think they'll be top in May.

Back to the Cup . . . and if Watford play as they did against us, West Ham will have their work cut out this Saturday.

I was particularly impressed by the central defenders Ian Bolton and young Steve Terry, while Luther Blissett and Ross Jenkins are a handful in attack.

Somehow, you don't associate Watford with Division One, but that's where they're heading.

I know their chairman Elton John quite well. Elton was a regular on England trips under Don Revie. I find Elton a quiet person who is absolutely fanatical about football.

His recording commitments mean he can't travel with the international side any more — that and, of course, being chairman of Watford.

Join me again in a fortnight,

Ray Wilkins

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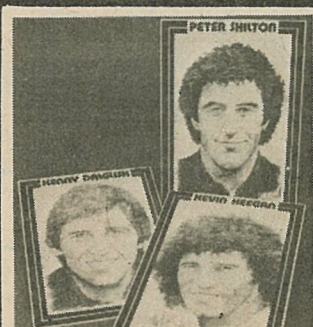
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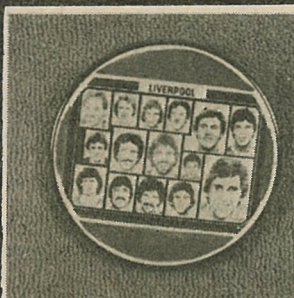
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you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive

to SHOOT!

Zaire lose 9-0 to Yugoslavia during the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany.



This week's Star Letter comes from John Mackay of Glasgow, who wins our special prize of £10.

No room for the minnows

WE ARE now in the position to be able to look at and comment upon all the teams who will be competing in the 1982 World Cup.

But there are some nations conspicuous by their absence from the list, Holland, East Germany, Sweden and very nearly England, teams who warrant an appearance on the list of anybody's top international teams.

And yet the names of such teams as Kuwait and Honduras appear. For the World Cup to live up to its billing of being the top tournament surely it must involve the world's top teams — the cream.

Certainly the aforementioned top teams have not hit the high spots recently, but they would still have taken the places of the other teams if there had been direct confrontations between them.

No detracting from the feat of these minor teams' qualification.

Indeed they may prove to be as entertaining as North Korea and, more recently, Tunisia, but it is more probable they shall just make up the numbers: Zaire and Mexico spring to mind.

Like everyone else I like to see the underdog do well, but the underdog should be there by virtue of performance and not geographical location.

● When you consider New Zealand had to play 15 ties in varying conditions and travel over 60,000 miles in the process, perhaps the minnows ARE there by virtue of performance ... even if it's all relative.

Pompous Sassenachs

AS A Scot, I was disgusted by your comment in the SHOOT Soccer Calendar — "Kevin Keegan and England will be flying the flag in Spain."

Do you pompous Sassenachs not realise that the flag shown, the Union Jack, is the flag of the United Kingdom, i.e. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales as well?

If K. K. & Co. are going to fly any flag in Spain, let it be St George's English Flag, so that when the hooligans riot they will be treated as what they are — English and not British.

JAMES L. BAIN,
DOUNE.

● England have flown the Union Jack for as long as soccer has been played. And are proud to do so. Scots may have a different attitude towards the Union Jack and God Save the Queen ... but

they shouldn't resent English pride in the flag and national anthem.

Charge of the Bulldogs

I THINK some England fans and the Press are talking rubbish by laying criticisms on the England mascot.

He represents England well, and being a bulldog is English, isn't it?

He looks as if he's going to charge through Spain and most England supporters want England to do that.

PHILIP McLEAN,
STOURBRIDGE.

● The team — yes; the fans — no.

Forty Towers

ITALY must be extremely hard up for goalkeepers if they still have to play Dino Zoff.

I can't think of any players at all who have played in the World Cup Finals at the age of 40.

I find it difficult to believe that any country can be so short of players that they have to play a 40-year-old.

It makes you feel sorry for the likes of Jimmy Rimmer, Phil Parkes, Paul Cooper and Mark Wallington who won't be going to the World Cup and probably never will compete in a World Cup Finals.

MARTIN ANDERSON,
SUNDERLAND

● I always thought it was how good you were, not how old (or young) you were that determined whether you played.

Prince of Soccer

THE possibilities of an intercontinental struggle for the services of the baby of the Princess of Wales, should it be a boy who is talented at football, are alarmingly high, for he would be eligible (according to official sources) of playing for England, Wales, Ireland, America, Greece, Denmark and Germany.

GERARD ROSSITER,
CO. WEXFORD

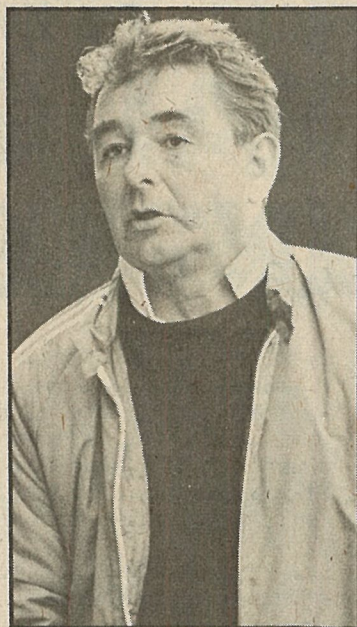
● If Princess Anne can represent Great Britain in the Olympics ...

Pen-Pal

I'M a 16-year-old Feyenoord supporter who would like to correspond with supporters of Arsenal.

TON WORKALA,
CHOPINSTRAT 26A,
VLAARDINGEN 3131DD,
HOLLAND.

Too much pressure



THESE days the pressures of being a manager are too great. So much is demanded of them and, after all, they are only human.

They are expected to maintain high standards which are not always possible due to injuries, etc.

Once their team loses a few games and gradually slips in the table, staring them in the face is the possibility of dismissal.

So in some cases it's no wonder that physical conditions appear, e.g. Brian Clough.

N. WALTON,
STOKE-ON-TRENT.

● Directors are invariably impatient, so are supporters. The result is mega-pressure on the manager.

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read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to

individual letters personally.

Three defeats

I was very surprised when Switzerland beat England in a World Cup tie last summer — have they ever done so before?

PETER EGBUNIWE,
NIGERIA

● Yes they have, Peter — in successive friendlies in Zurich on either side of the last War.

On 21st May, 1938, they won 2-1 — and in the very next meeting, on 18th May 1947, they repeated the dose by 1-0.

All told, England have played the Swiss 14 times in full internationals — winning nine, drawing two, and losing those three.

Best and worst

What, statistically, has been England's best win, and worst defeat, in full internationals since the last War?

SUHAIMI ISMAEL,
WEST MALAYSIA

● Well, Suhaimi, there have been a couple of 10-0 wins, in friendlies — against Portugal, in Lisbon, on 25th May, 1947; and against U.S.A., in New York, on 27th May, 1964.

Worst defeat in the same period was that famous 7-1 drubbing by Hungary, in Budapest, on 23rd May, 1954.

Manchester double

Last October, in Belfast, Manchester City's Martin O'Neill and Asa Hartford captained their countries, Northern Ireland and Scotland, playing against each other in a 0-0 draw. Has a case like that ever happened before?

NEIL ASHTON,
MANCHESTER.

● Yes it has, Neil — though obviously it's pretty rare.

But I found a couple of other instances from our own islands.

In Dublin, on 9th June, 1963, Manchester United's Noel Cantwell led Eire to a 1-0 win over Scotland, captained by team-mate Denis Law.

And in Cardiff, on 16th February, 1924, Scotland (skipped by John Blair) beat Wales (led by Fred Keenor) 2-0. Both were Cardiff City players.

SHORT PASSES

● As a player, Villa manager Ron Saunders was on the books of Everton, Tonbridge (Southern League), Gillingham, Portsmouth, Watford and Charlton.

(VIJAY AQUAMARAN, West Malaysia)

● Frank Stapleton scored 75 goals in 225 League games for Arsenal before moving to Manchester United last August.

(PATRICK ROCHFORD, Eire)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

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'FANS WANT SUMMER SOCCER'

Shirt-sleeve soccer would be a big bonus for the Scottish players, many of whom have been inactive in recent weeks due to the appalling weather conditions.

I WANT to make a call now for a winter shut-down.

Perhaps the answer to this age-old controversy about what time of the year to play our national sport should be answered by a national referendum among the fans.

But I would be most surprised if the big vote didn't swing us into shirt-sleeve soccer . . . and I would want it to start from next season, right after the World Cup Finals when we will all get a taste of football in the sunshine.

Give us two months closed season over December and January and football can flourish again. We must take our lesson from all the other snowbound countries of Northern Europe who take a break.

The traditionally attractive Christmas fixtures in Scotland were frozen out by icy temperatures and so the old chestnut about summer football came up again.

Problem

Some people don't want to know, claiming it is an annual tape recording played when we can't play football. But the problem of postponed games won't go away just because we don't talk about it.

Indeed I have a fear deep in my heart that it may be too late already, for once people get out of the habit of going to games Saturday after Saturday, they soon find that they can live without it . . . and soccer begins to die a slow death.

And here is a great idea of which I am sure the international team bosses would approve. The two shut-down months could be used for a get-together for the national squad with perhaps a tour on the cards. Imagine what a boost that would have been this winter with the World Cup charging towards us.



Scotland won't be underestimating anyone after Iran in 1978.

Two months is only one quarter of a season and the games could easily be fitted in with a slight extension to the term. After all we will have to manage it this spring . . . and it is not pre-arranged.

One of the problems of an absence of football is that there is no spin-off and therefore nothing for the fans to talk about — so interest falls.

There is no talk. Except, that is, about summer football — and the talking about that has to stop. It is time for action.

All this incidentally, shouldn't be interpreted as an attack on Rangers, who have included an undersoil blanket in their new dream home at Ibrox and who carry on playing through the bleak midwinter.

Their stadium — officially opened by Liverpool in a match just before Christmas — is the best in Britain just now and by all reports the blanket is hyper efficient.

Hibs too have a blanket, but I thought Rangers might have gone one better in the construction of the new stadium by including an indoor gym with perhaps an Astro-Turf surface.

That would have broken the monotony of training in the snow which becomes a drag after the first day.

Meanwhile, talk of soccer in the sun brings us to the World Cup, and a sneak preview of the draw in

Madrid on January 16.

The world Press has been red hot with stories of the European nations carving up the draw to suit themselves and the most popular version placed Scotland in the north of Spain in Vigo and La Coruna in Group One as second seeds to Italy.

We were to be partnered with an Iron Curtain country — probably Czechoslovakia or Yugoslavia — and one of the so called rabbit nations.

Well, I took it all with a pinch of salt until the big night . . . but I must say that if the Press tip-off was to come true we wouldn't be all that unhappy. At the time of writing, we were still waiting for the draw.

The strength of world football is reflected in the quality of the competing teams, for the six Cinderella nations apart, there are no easy looking games. Anyway after 1978 and a 1-1 draw with Iran, Scotland has no right to call anyone "easy".

See you in two weeks.

Danny McGrath

TARTAN TALK FROM RANGERS' ALLY DAWSON NEXT WEEK



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Tuesday, Dec. 29

Third Division

BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 1 (McCaffery)
BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 12,355

Wednesday, Dec. 30

F.A. Cup

(Second Round replay)

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (McNichol (og))
BRENTFORD (0) 0 5,532

DAGENHAM (1) 1 (Stein)
MILLWALL (1) 2 (Allardice, Chatterton) 5,000

OXFORD (2) 4 (Cassells 3, Thomas)
ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Robinson, French) 5,569

Second Division

CHARLTON 0
NORWICH 0
Charlton: Johns, Naylor (Elliott), Ferns, Gritt, McAllister, Phillips, Lansdowne, Walsh, Hales, Berry, Robinson.
Norwich: Woods, Symonds, Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson, Mendham, Jack, Deehan, Bertschin, Bennett.

Third Division

SWINDON (0) 1 (Rideout)
FULHAM (2) 4 (Davies 2, Lock, O'Driscoll) 5,641

Friday, Jan. 1 1982

Third Division

SOUTHEND (2) 2 (Pountney, Cusack pen)
EXETER (0) 1 (Fisher) 5,985

Saturday, Jan. 2

F.A. Cup

(Second Round)

BURY (0) 1 (Madden)
BURNLEY (0) 1 (Taylor) 9,200

CREWE (1) 1 (Haslegrave)
SCUNTHORPE (1) 3 (Cowling, Telfer, Dall) 2,729

HEREFORD (1) 1 (Laidlaw)
FULHAM (0) 0 4,617

KETTERING (0) 0
BLACKPOOL (1) 3 (Harrison, Wann, Morris) 4,439

PETERBOROUGH (1) 2 (Cooke, Chard)
WALSALL (0) 1 (Butler (og)) 5,421

PORT VALE (0) 4 (Moss 2, Chamberlain (N) 2)
STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Smith) 4,478

Carlisle v. Bishop Auckland abandoned

(Second Round Replay)

GILLINGHAM (0) 3 (Bruce, Price, Powell)
BARKING (0) 1 (Anderson) AET 4,779

(Third Round)

BARNET 0
BRIGHTON 0 4,800
Barnet: Phillips, Pittaway, Pearce, Millett, Campbell, Townsend, Robinson, Watson, Sargent, Barnes, Westwood.
Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Nelson, Grealish, Foster, Case, Gating, Ritchie, Robinson, McNab (Stevens), Thomas.

BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 (Worthington pen, Curbishley)
IPSWICH (1) 3 (Brazil 2, Work) 17,236
Birmingham: Coton, Langan, Dennis, Curbishley, Broadhurst (Handysides), Todd, Dillon, Worthington, Evans, Gemmill, van Mierlo.
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Mills, McCall, Osman, Stegless, Work, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

BOLTON (2) 3 (Gowling, Foster, Thompson)
DERBY (0) 1 (Powell (B)) 9,534
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bennett, Henry, Jones, McElhinney, Chandler, Foster, Gowling, Langley, Thompson.
Derby: Jones, Coop, Richards, Powell (S), Money, Buckley, Dalziel, Powell (B), Clayton, Swindlehurst, Gamble (Emson).

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
OXFORD (0) 2 (Cassells, Thomas) 8,989

COVENTRY (2) 3 (Hunt 2, Hateley)
SHEFFIELD WED (1) 1 (McCulloch) 14,213
Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Barnes, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Bodak, Daly, Hateley, Kaiser (Hormantschuk), Hunt.
Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Sterland, Williamson, Smith, Shirriff, Taylor (Mellor), Megson, Mirocevic, Bannister, McCulloch, Curran.

DONCASTER (2) 2 (Reilly (og), Warboys)
CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Taylor) 6,741
Doncaster: Boyd, Russell, Cooper, Lister, Swan, Dowd, Pugh, Dawson, Warboys, Lally, Little.
Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Christie (Smith), Fallon, Streete, Taylor, Spriggs, Mayo, Reilly, Finney.

ENFIELD (1) 2 (Ironton, Oliver)
CRYSTAL PALACE (2) 3 (Price, Hilaire 2) 3,467
Enfield: Jacobs, Barratt, Waite, Jennings, Tone, Taylor, Ching, Oliver, Ironton, Ashford, Holmes.
C. Palace: Barron, Hinshelwood, Cannon, Wicks, Boulter, Murphy, Price, Hilaire, Smillie, Walsh (Lovell), Mabbutt.

LEICESTER (2) 3 (Young 2, Lineker)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Keegan) 20,589
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Lineker, Young (Melrose), Wilson, Kelly.
Southampton: Katalinic, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Nicholl (Wallace), Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Armstrong, Ball.

LUTON (1) 2 (Moss pen., Horton)
SWINDON (0) 1 (Emmanuel) 9,488
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Fuccillo, Moss.
Swindon: Allen, Baddeley, Williams, Henry, Lewis, Stroud, Emmanuel, Carter, Rowlands, Rideout, Pritchard.

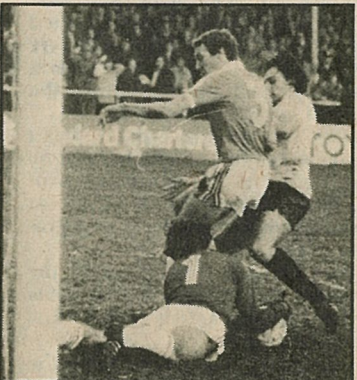
MANCHESTER CITY (2) 3 (Francis 2, McDonald)
CARDIFF (1) 1 (Maddy) 31,950
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Bond, Caton, Gow, Reeves, Francis, Hartford, Hutchison.
Cardiff: Healey, Grapes, Dwyer, Maddy, Pontin, Bennett (G), Bennett (D), Micallef, Stevens, Hughes (Sugrue), Lewis.

NOTT.M. FOREST (1) 1 (Proctor)
WREXHAM (0) 3 (Dowman, Vinter, McNeil) 15,649
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gunn, Needham, Young, Walsh, Rober (McGovern), Wallace, Ward, Proctor, Robertson.
Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Jones, Bater, Dowman, Cegielski, Ronson, Fox, McNeil (Hill), Edwards, Vinter, Carodus.

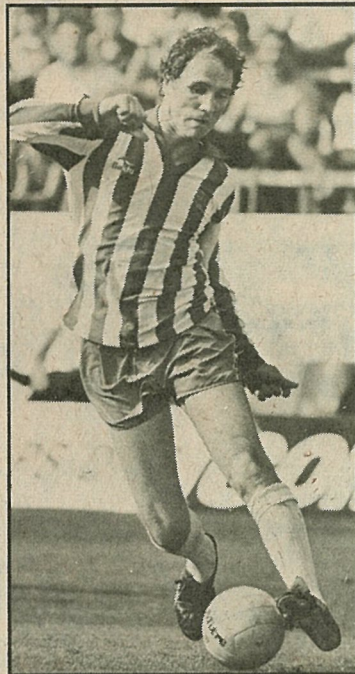
ORIENT (0) 1 (Moore)
CHARLTON (0) 0 6,511
Orient: Day, Hughton, Foster, Taylor, Gray, Fisher, Godfrey, Silkman, Moores, Margerrison, Jennings (Blackhall).
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Ferns, Gritt, McAllister, Phillips, Lansdowne (Elliott), Walsh, Hales, Berry, Robinson.

QPR (0) 1 (Stainrod)
MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1 (Thomson) 12,000
QPR: Hucker, Neal, Fenwick, Waddock, Howe, Roeder, Micklewhite, Flanagan, Stewart, Stainrod, Gillard.
Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bolton, Ross, Baxter, McAndrew, Cochrane, Otto, Hodgson, Shearer, Thomson.

ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Towner)
SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Rowell) 11,649
Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Taylor, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Towner, Gooding, Moore, Fern, Henson.



Brighton 'keeper Graham Moseley under pressure at Barnet.

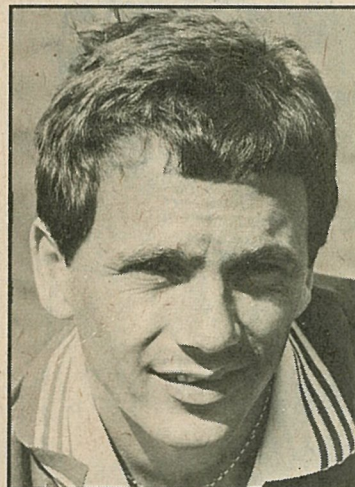


Andy McCulloch (Sheff. Wed)

Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan, Pickering, Hindmarch, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, McCoist (Venison), Ritchie, Rowell, Cummins.

STOKE (0) 0
NORWICH (1) 1 (Jack) 12,805
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton (Johnson), Dodd, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Griffiths, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Ursem.
Norwich: Woods, Symonds, Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson, Mendham, Jack, Deehan, Bertschin, Bennett.

SWANSEA (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (2) 4 (Hansen, Rush 2, Lawrenson) 24,179
Swansea: Davies, Stanley, Marustik (Thompson), Rajkovic, Irwin, Stevenson, Curtis, James (R), James (L), Mahoney, Latchford.
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Thompson, Whelan, Hansen, Dalglish, Kennedy (A), Rush, McDermott, Souness.



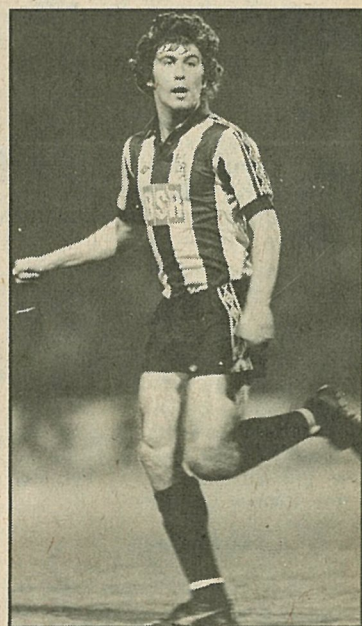
Rotherham winger Tony Towner

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Crooks)
ARSENAL (0) 0 38,241
Tottenham: Clemence, Perryman, Roberts, Miller, Hughton, Villa, Ardiles, Galvin, Hoddle, Falco, Crooks.
Arsenal: Jennings (Meade), Robson, O'Leary, Whyte, Sansom, Talbot, Hollins, Nicholas, Davis, Sunderland, Rix.

WATFORD (1) 1 (Lohman)
MANCHESTER UTD (0) 0 24,431
Watford: Sherwood, Rice (Armstrong), Pritchett, Taylor, Terry, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett, Jenkins, Barnes, Lohman.
Man. Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, Moran, Buchan, Robson, Birtles, Stapleton, Moses (Macari), McIlroy.

WBA (1) 3 (Mackenzie, King pen, Whitehead)
BLACKBURN (0) 2 (Garner 2) 17,540
WBA: Grew, Batson, Statham, Whitehead, Wile, Robertson, Jol, Monaghan, Regis, King Mackenzie.
Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Arnett, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Stonehouse, Garner, Bell, Brotherston.

WEST HAM (1) 2 (Bonds, Cross)
EVERTON (0) 1 (Eastoe) 24,431
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard (Pearson), Cross, Brooking, Pike.
Everton: Southall, Stevens, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Lyons, Kendall, Richardson, Ross (O'Keefe), Sharp, Eastoe, Lodge.



WBA star Steve Mackenzie

WOLVES (1) 1 (Gray)
LEEDS (1) 3 (Hamson, Hird, Gray (E)) 20,923
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Gallagher, Berry, Birch, Eves, Gray, Richards, Brazier.
Leeds: Lukic, Cherry, Gray (F), Stevenson, Hart, Burns, Gray (E), Graham, Butterworth, Hamson, Hird.

Third Division

BRENTFORD (0) 0
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 (Fletcher) 5,440

BRISTOL CITY (1) 1 (Stevens)
WIMBLEDON (1) 3 (Ketteridge, Lazarus 2) 4,660

NEWPORT (3) 3 (Aldridge 2, Lowndes)
READING (0) 1 (Sanchez) 2,948

PLYMOUTH (0) 4 (Cooper 2, Cook 2 (1 pen))
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0 7,058

Fourth Division

MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Wood)
WIGAN (1) 2 (Lloyd, Bradd) 2,173

SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 2 (Hatton, Kenworthy pen)
HALIFAX (0) 2 (Ward 2) 11,623

Scottish Premier

HIBS (0) 2 (Jamieson, MacLeod)
DUNDEE (1) 1 (Sinclair) 7,500
Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Schaedler, Brazil, Paterson, Flavell, Callaghan, Duncan, Rae, MacLeod, Jamieson.
Dundee: Blair, Barr, McLelland, Glennie, McDonald (Stephen), Fraser, McGeachie, Cameron (Kidd), MacKie, Ferguson, Sinclair.

Scottish Second

ARBROATH (1) 1 (Shaw)
FORFAR (0) 1 (Clark) 1,435

E. FIFE (0) 1 (O'Brien)
COWDENBEATH (1) 1 (Forrest) 960

MONTROSE (2) 2 (Turnbull pen, Oliver)
BRECHIN (2) 2 (Paterson, Campbell) 780

STRANRAER (0) 0
ALBION (1) 1 (Houston) 630

'Brian Clough hurt me'

FEEL as if I have been placed in the stocks in the market square and faced a barrage of rotten fruit hurled by an angry crowd.

The start of 1982 has been eventful to say the least — and I've hardly kicked a ball for Nottingham Forest in the early weeks.

First came the three match ban for topping 20 disciplinary points. It was a severe blow at the time, made worse when the country became gripped by an ice-age and matches were postponed.

Then Brian Clough had a go at me. That hurt, I don't mind telling you. But when I analysed what the boss was saying in print, I realised there was a great deal of sense in his statement.

The words that bruised me most were these: "Justin has been booked half a dozen times, but none of them to my knowledge have come from getting hurt in the six-yard box."

Courage

Most people reading between the lines would believe that Brian is criticising my courage in going in where it hurts most. It could lead some to believe that I'm a bit of a coward in the penalty-area.

I think I'm right in saying that Brian doesn't mean to give that impression. I think his comment has taught me a sharp lesson.

The truth is that I have spent too much time this season trying to create openings for others. This pretty-pretty stuff is not really for me. I've even drifted to the wing to cross the ball for others.

My job is to cause mayhem in the penalty-area — and score goals.

If I may make a mild criticism of others, I could be provided with a few more crosses than I've had in the first half of the season. You can't fire bullets if you don't receive

the ammunition. I promise to get on end of crosses when they arrive lads.

Brian Clough's public rebuke had hardly been forgotten before I was under fire again. This time from a bus driver!

Gently easing my sponsored Toyota Celica car, kindly loaned me by a Nottingham garage, on to a roundabout I discovered to my horror that the bus was bulldozing across my path, turning the car into a mangled wreck.

Fortunately, I escaped unhurt but then had the problem of apologising to the garage. Taking my courage in both hands, I phoned the manager.

"Do you want the good news or the bad news?" I enquired timidly. "Better give me the bad news, Justin," said the manager quietly.

"The car has been involved in an accident!" I said. "What's the good news?" asked the manager. "I'm taking you out to dinner tonight!"

The problems continued with the sad news that Brian Clough had been admitted to hospital. If any good comes out of a scare like that, it is that he might heed Peter Taylor's warning to SLOW DOWN.

On the ball
with
FASHANU



If an amazingly strong character like Brian can be carted off to hospital, he must be ill. His problem is that he works hard for Nottingham Forest, for his family, and for people less fortunate than him.

His work for charity is terribly demanding. He only makes headlines in the nationals when he gives me a kick up the backside or says something about the game. His photograph will often appear in the



Like Justin, Mark Proctor (right) has taken time to settle in at Forest.

local papers for a gesture of generosity.

The hard luck story gathered momentum on a cold day in early January when Wrexham, not Forest, were pulled out of the hat to face Chelsea or Hull in the F.A. Cup Fourth Round.

That 3-1 home defeat by Wrexham was a severe body blow to Forest — and I had to watch it from the stands.

Apologised

John Robertson was not throwing a moody after the Cup-tie when he apologised personally to Peter Taylor. John's had his ups and downs at Forest but he spoke for us all when he said we'd let the club down.

But don't make the mistake of believing that it is all gloom. We firmly believe we can challenge strongly for the First Division title. We are well placed for a run on the rails in the home straight.

I must start scoring goals, though,

Wrexham celebrate their shock F.A. Cup win at the City Ground.

if we are to stand a chance of clinching the Championship.

The return from injury of Einar Aas; the return of Ian Bowyer from Sunderland; the influence of star buys Willie Young and Jurgen Rober; the marked improvement of Mark Proctor, who like me has taken time to settle; and the confidence of Forest's established players suggests better times ahead.

I'm certainly ready for some action after getting a 45-minute run out in a match against Leicester played behind closed doors at Filbert Street on January 6.

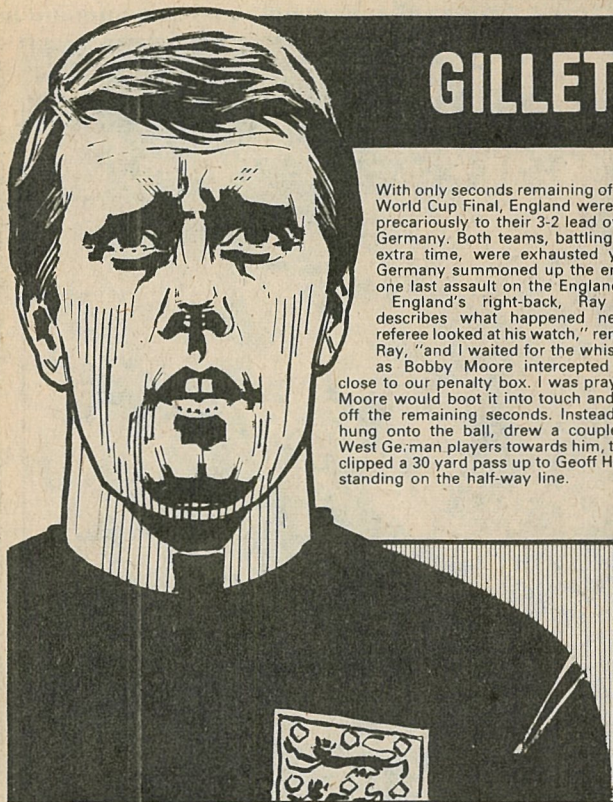
I felt strong and sharp in a 1-1 draw ... and got into the box often. That's hardly surprising when you consider I visit a health farm twice a week and have been training privately in a gymnasium three times a week.

Please join me again in a fortnight when I'll tell you about a vehicle I've bought which the British Army would envy ...

Justin Fashanu



GILLETTE GOALS OF THE CENTURY



With only seconds remaining of the 1966 World Cup Final, England were clinging precariously to their 3-2 lead over West Germany. Both teams, battling through extra time, were exhausted yet West Germany summoned up the energy for one last assault on the England goal.

England's right-back, Ray Wilson, describes what happened next, "the referee looked at his watch," remembers Ray, "and I waited for the whistle to go as Bobby Moore intercepted a cross close to our penalty box. I was praying Moore would boot it into touch and kill off the remaining seconds. Instead he hung onto the ball, drew a couple of West German players towards him, then clipped a 30 yard pass up to Geoff Hurst standing on the half-way line.



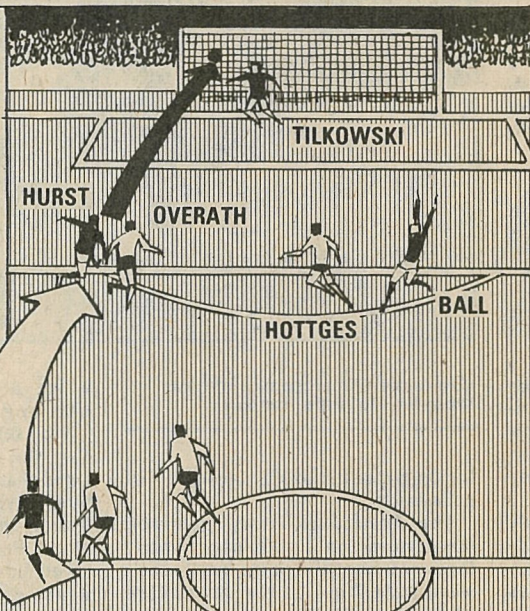
HURST

MOORE



"I thought 'we're alright now, Hurst will turn, take it down to the West German corner flag and by the time they retrieve it it will be all over.' But Hurst had other ideas, drawing on his last ounce of energy, he ran towards goal outpacing the German Overath.

"As Hurst approached the penalty box the German Hottges was moving across to cover getting closer to him every second.

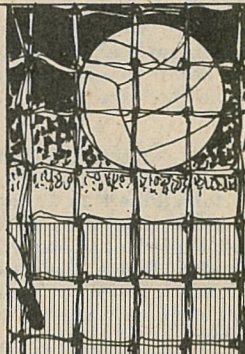


HURST
STARTS
RUN

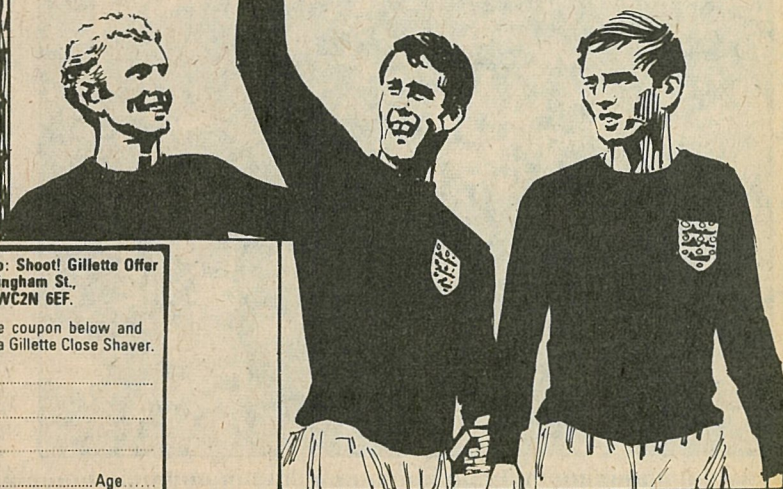


"Suddenly Hurst let fly with his left foot. The goalkeeper never moved — the ball was in the net.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think Hurst would take the ball from the half-way line and score like that. For me it was the goal of the century and Hurst made football history scoring the first hat-trick in a World Cup Final and bringing the Jules Rimet trophy to England."



England 4 West Germany 2



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PLATT AIMS TO REIGN IN SPAIN

THE thigh injury incurred by Pat Jennings earlier this month could mean that Jim Platt will be Northern Ireland's goalkeeper at Wembley for the British Championship tie against England in February.

The Middlesbrough 'keeper insists it won't be a one-off appearance, though. Even though a fully fit Jennings is rated a cert to play in Ireland's goal, Platt has his eyes on a World Cup place — and not on the subs bench.

The task of ousting Jennings is a formidable one, with Pat aiming at achieving a personal ambition of 100 appearances for his country.

For Platt, however, there has been a change in attitude following the years spent basking in his rival's shadow.

Says Jim: "Up to last season, I was ready to acknowledge that Pat's long record of outstanding performances for club and country entitled him to be rated as an automatic choice for Northern Ireland.

"But not any more. I respect him as much, if not more, than anyone else, yet I'm no longer prepared to simply accept a situation in which I'm rated second best.

'Honour'

"Of course, if Pat is picked then I'll wish him the best of luck. Yet it is a great honour for my country to be involved in the World Cup Finals, and I would like to play my part on the pitch, and not just sit on the sidelines.

"One thing I'm sure about is that I don't intend to take a back seat without a fight."

Certainly, in the highly competitive business of fighting for his place, Platt has proved in the past at club level that he has the steel in his make-up to succeed.

In 1978, he was virtually on the Middlesbrough scrapheap and lucky to be getting a game in the Ayresome reserve side after the Teesiders bought Jim Stewart from Kilmarnock for £100,000.

Platt was allowed to go on loan to Cardiff and Hartlepool, but won back his spot in the line-up in 1979 with Middlesbrough after Scottish international Stewart suffered a dip in form.

And following outstanding displays in the Boro goal which have made him the North-East's outstanding performer these past two seasons, Platt has gained repeated man-of-the-match awards this term which have left

him with mixed feelings.

He says: "A 'keeper only stars when his side is under pressure, and at times I would much rather be in a position in which I conceded the limelight to others. Ideally, I would prefer Boro to win every match 1-0, and myself to have a blinder in each!

"Unfortunately, we've lost too many points this season, with the result that we are now fighting at the bottom of the table. And records indicate that teams deep in the relegation zone at the turn of the year are set for the drop.

"It seems likely that one of the North-East club's will be relegated, but at Middlesbrough we will fight all the way to make sure it won't be us.

"And while I have to be pleased at the praise I'm getting, as long as I'm in the limelight it means we are defending too much. We are in a lot of trouble, and our League position doesn't lie, which is why we must show a great amount of improvement to give ourselves a chance.

"We can't afford to let too big a gap develop at the bottom of the table, and a few good results are needed now to ease the pressure on us."

Until May, Platt's involvement with his club is his prior concern, but he makes no bones about his summer ambitions.

"Right now, my top priority is helping Middlesbrough climb to safety in the First Division," says Jim. "But in the close season I'll be out to regain my place for my country.

"After representing Northern Ireland in nine successive games, and being part of the team which won the British Championship in 1980, I reckon I was unlucky to be left out later."



Platt catches safely for Northern Ireland against England at Wembley in 1980.



WEST BROM



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

WHEN most football followers and critics were prepared to dismiss West Bromwich Albion as a spent force after their manager Ron Atkinson's departure, SHOOT took the opposite view.

Just over two months ago we stated categorically in a special dossier on the West Midland's First Division club: "Albion may be facing something of a crisis, but SHOOT backs them to emerge a better club... one that will find belated and welcomed success."

We are pleased to report that our support at a particularly difficult time for Albion was fully justified.

Ronnie Allen has masterminded a complete transformation in the space of a few hectic months.

Their rapid progress from "no hoppers" to one of the most consistent teams in the country is nothing short of miraculous.

Six successive wins in League games and Cup-ties in late December and early January confirmed that Albion have finally rid themselves of the ghosts of Ron Atkinson, and midfield stars Bryan Robson and Remi Moses.

It is a tribute to Ronnie Allen's courage in facing up to the vast problems he inherited and the coaching of Gerry Summers that Albion are rejuvenated when most people thought they would struggle to survive in the First Division.

Indeed, they headed the form sequence charts in the national newspapers early this month ahead of Manchester City, Ipswich, Spurs, Leeds and Liverpool.

Their winning sequence started at Sunderland at the end of November when Alistair Brown and Cyrille Regis pumped winning goals into the Rokerites' net.

Significantly, the muscular Regis scored goals in the next four games to hoist his tally to 18 League and Cup goals by the start of the New Year.

Regis' thrilling form has been largely

instrumental in Albion's escape from the First Division basement.

He is a direct threat to Paul Mariner's occupancy of the England striker's shirt and is almost certain to be called into the England squad for the international against Northern Ireland at Wembley on February 23.

If Regis answers Ron Greenwood's prayers, the England boss will owe a debt of gratitude to Ronnie Allen.

Allen has inspired Regis to produce his best form since he exploded onto the First Division scene with 18 goals in 1977-78.

The Albion manager explains: "Cyrille and I have had sessions together on the basics necessary for him to do the best for himself and the team."

"His tendency to drift in and out of a match is cured."

"He is a straightforward type who needs the play to be kept as simple as possible."

It was Allen, in his first stint as Albion manager, who spotted potential in the strong, raw-boned striker playing non-

NORWICH ALBION



League football for Hayes.

Allen was lured from The Hawthorns to Saudi Arabia and Regis seemed to lose his impetus under Ron Atkinson's management.

Allen's return has had a dramatic effect on the black striker's form. Regis, says Allen, is a strong candidate for a World Cup place.

"He's got to be pencilled in by England," says Allen, who freely admits that he has worked harder in the last six months than at any other time in his career.

Allen goes on: "We have come through it all because everybody, the board and the staff, have worked hard. The fans have been unbelievable. They have gone out of their way to let us know they were aware of how difficult our job was."

"We have improved a great deal in the past three months. I didn't think we would get the blend so quickly."

The departure of Britain's most expensive footballer has been largely offset by the arrival of some quality players, including Steve Mackenzie, Andy King, Martin Jol and

Clive Whitehead.

Gary Owen's shock transfer request hardly caused a ripple of anxiety.

Ronnie Allen's no-nonsense style ensures that the club remains bigger than any individual.

"If they don't want to play for me, I'll sell them and get someone else," he says.

Professionals, not prima donnas, have steered Albion out of the mire.

Thankfully, West Bromwich Albion's saviour was handsomely rewarded for his efforts when he was chosen as Bell's manager of the month.

HONOURS

League Champions: 1919-20.

Second Division Champions: 1901-02, 1910-11.

F.A. Cup winners: 1888, 1892, 1931, 1954, 1968.

League Cup winners: 1966.

BACK ROW (left to right): Gerry Summers (coach), Derek Monaghan, Barry Cowdrill, Martyn Bennett, Martin Jol, Mark Grew, Kevin Summerfield, Alistair Brown, Cyrille Regis, Brendon Batson, Alistair Robertson, Ronnie Allen (manager).
FRONT ROW: Nicky Cross, David Arthur, Steve Mackenzie, John Wile, Gary Owen, Derek Statham, Clive Whitehead, John Deehan (now Norwich).

Twenty five leading soccer writers and commentators had no hesitation in recommending Ronnie Allen — and the presentation was made before Albion's home game against Manchester City on January 16.

Not bad for a man who ran into a wave of transfer requests, player power, crashing gate figures and a frightening loss of form and confidence when he took over from Ron Atkinson.

A vast number of fans will tell anyone within earshot if given the opportunity that there is only one Ronnie for them. And his surname is not Atkinson.

LOHMAN HITS THE HIGH SPOTS

JAN Lohman, Watford's new Dutch recruit who scored the goal which ended Manchester United's F.A. Cup hopes, had one fear after his big day against Britain's most famous team.

Lohman was playing only his fourth full game for the Watford first team, the day he gave Ron Atkinson's team the Cup shock of their lives.

And Lohman, who netted the winner just before half-time, said: "I cannot count on being in for the next Round or even the next game. I still have very much to prove to Watford."

"We have many good players in the squad. Hardly any player is certain of his place and as I only joined the club at the start of the season, I am very much the new boy with everything to do."

The story is further proof of manager Graham Taylor's constant and demanding standards at the Second Division club.

Taylor signed Lohman for a giveaway £25,000 fee from Belgian First Division club SK Lokeren.

The Rotterdam-born player had been on loan to Lokeren for 18 months from Dutch club NEC Nijmegen.

He joined Watford after a ten-day trial which was satisfactory to both club and player.

"It was always my ambition to play in English football," said Lohman.

"It is a lot more exciting here than in

Holland or Belgium, for it is so much quicker, with much bigger crowds.

"The football is more attacking in England.

"It was a big game and a vital goal against United. But it was not the first time in my career I had scored such a goal. At the end of one season with Nijmegen, we had to beat Ajax Amsterdam in our last game to avoid relegation. I scored the only goal of the match that day, too."

Lohman has signed a two-year contract at Vicarage Road, and sees his priority as establishing a first team place on a regular basis. Until then, he will not know whether he will stay with Watford after those two years, or move to another club in England or Europe.

"Already I have learned a lot over here," he says. "The training is much harder and I

am far stronger than when I first arrived."

Lohman has been used at times as a midfielder player by Watford. But he prefers the wing, and hopes to persuade the manager that is where he is at his best.

"I played on the left wing part of my time in Holland. But at Lokeren, I also played in midfield. I had problems with the trainer at Lokeren and badly wanted to leave. When I heard Watford were interested I was happy to come to England."

Lohman's big day against United was a real family affair. His parents and two brothers were over from Europe specially for the game and saw Jan score the winner.

"I don't drink much but I had a glass of champagne that night. But I must not think too much of that Cup day. My place is not secure in the side and that is something I want to achieve now."



Lohman's winner against Manchester United.

WHEN SHOOT looked at the transfer hits and misses on the Scottish soccer scene last year we suggested Rangers should try playing striker Colin McAdam at centre-back to get full value for money . . .

At the time the bustling, former Partick Thistle leader had lost his touch in front of goal and his confidence had obviously taken a

"We won 2-0 and I was happy with the way he played. Of course, I knew all about his versatility when I paid Partick Thistle £170,000 for him two seasons ago. I realised then I was buying two players for the price of one."

McAdam's main role at Ibrox was that of attack leader and his new career kicked off amid a storm of goals.

However, reaction set in and the goals dried up. Derek Johnstone

the only position I didn't fill was goalkeeper!

"And it looked as though the chopping and changing would continue when I went to Partick Thistle. But I was eventually given a role in the attack and I finished the season as the top marksman with 27 goals.

"Then I joined Rangers as a striker and here I am back as a defender. But I'll play anywhere to hold down a first team place. The



McADAM DEFENDS HIS PLACE

knock.

There was also the fact that Derek Johnstone was back playing to something closer to his top form and it looked as though the first team door was firmly locked on Colin.

We don't know whether or not Ibrox manager John Greig was influenced by our suggestion, but he started to play McAdam in the number five shirt in the reserves and, just before the turn of the year, he introduced the player in his defensive position in the first team.

"Rangers were playing Clyde in the Glasgow Cup at Ibrox and it was the ideal opportunity to have a look at Colin in the middle of the rearguard in the top team," says Greig.

came back to shooting form, John MacDonald remained consistent and Gordon Dalziel emerged as a youngster with great potential. Colin was out . . . and there looked no way back. Until the switch.

'Hindered'

"I'll play anywhere," says McAdam. "I've always been fairly adaptable. In fact, I think that may have hindered my progress at one stage.

"It seemed managers were happy to keep me on the substitutes' bench and push me on in any position they thought needed strengthening.

"When I was with Motherwell I played all over the place. I think

manager, John Greig, knows best. I am quite happy to play where he thinks it will be most beneficial to the team."

Remarkably, Colin's career has been a carbon copy of his brother Tom, who performs with great rivals Celtic, of course.

Both started their career with Dumbarton as forwards . . . and now they are playing in central defence for the Old Firm.

Rangers have been looking for a possible replacement for 35-year-old Colin Jackson for quite a while now. Centre-back Jackson continues to play with astounding consistency, but he is now being pushed all the way for that first team place by Colin McAdam.

May the best man win!

THIRD AND FOURTH DIVISION ROUND-UP

THERE has been no shortage of activity in the Third and Fourth Divisions recently — even though the bitter weather prevented most of the teams from playing.

- A couple of managers — Alan Buckley and Bobby Houghton — found themselves frozen out as winter took its icy grip.

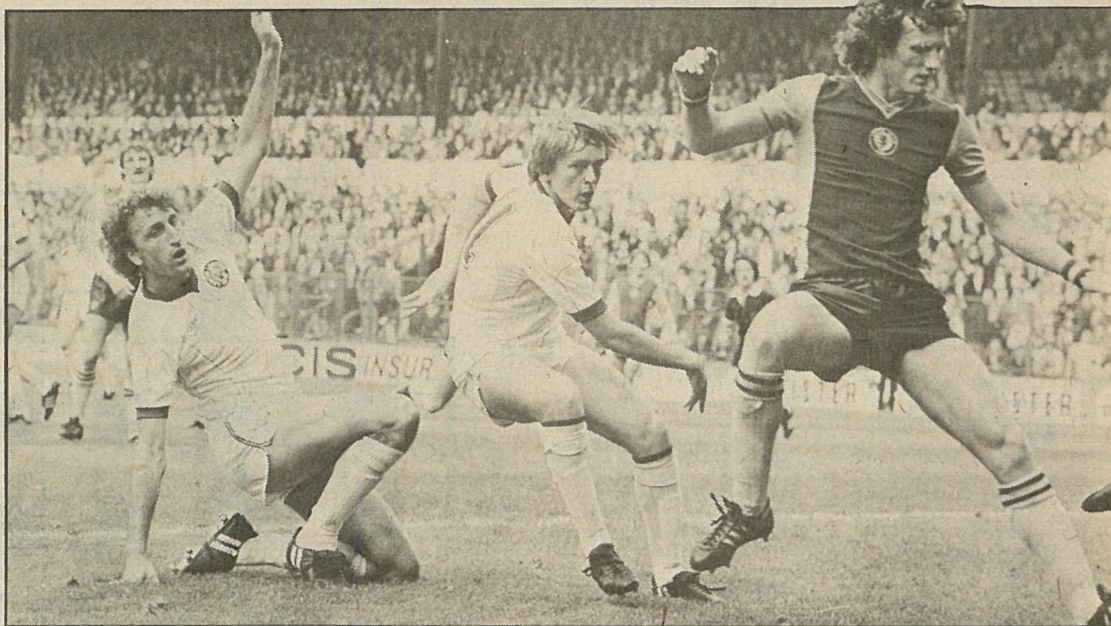
- A former World Cup star who lost his job as a manager moved on elsewhere to resume his playing career.

- One club tried to pull off what must be the cheekiest 'loan' transfer of all time. Another found a new chairman just in time to prevent them from going out of business.

- And the whole of football was saddened by the death of two of its best known characters.

The departure of Houghton, from Bristol City, came as a complete surprise.

The man they tempted from



Halifax wanted Peter Barnes

Malmo after he had led the Swedish team to a European Cup Final appearance against Nottingham Forest walked out on the morning of their home match against Wimbledon.

City lost that game 3-1 to remain deep in trouble at the wrong end of the Third Division and facing relegation for a third successive season.

The Alan Buckley story has a script that any crazy comedy writer would have been proud to produce.

One of the most popular players Walsall have ever had — not to mention the most prolific goalscorer — Buckley became player-manager and successfully led the fight against relegation to the Fourth Division last season.

Then Neil Martin was given joint-control of team matters with him — until December.

That's when Martin decided the position was completely unsatis-

Peter Barnes (above, centre) Bristol City (dark shirts, below) are now facing relegation for the third successive season.



factory and demanded sole control to enable him to do things his way. He got it — and Buckley was so incensed he asked to go on the transfer list.

★ ★ ★ ★

Another boss to get a slap in the face from his board of directors was Terry Cooper — shown the door at Bristol Rovers to make way for Bobby Gould.

Cooper did not have to sit around and mope for long about his untimely dismissal. For Billy Bremner — team-mate in the great days at Leeds and now manager of Third Division Doncaster — moved in to sign him as a player for the Yorkshire club.

★ ★ ★ ★

The club saved from almost certain extinction were Oxford United, who got a new chairman when former Labour MP Robert Maxwell took over as chairman.

Maxwell, a millionaire publisher, guaranteed a personal sum of £120,000 to keep them afloat. But he warned he cannot do it alone and expects the citizens, and business people, of the city to play their part.

Oxford are losing money heavily every week and the bank have refused to extend their overdraft, which stands at £150,000.

As it is things are so bad generally that it seems certain several of them will switch to part-time soccer next season.

★ ★ ★ ★

The deaths that saddened football were of Bob Lord, controversial chairman of Burnley and a leading administrator. He passed away after a long illness.

And Alan Ball senior was tragically killed in a car crash in Cyprus. He had gone there to take a job for a short while.

★ ★ ★ ★

To finish on a brighter note, how about Halifax's audacious attempt to take Peter Barnes on loan from Leeds, where he has been out of favour?

Sam Rorke — chairman of Halifax, another club fighting to stay alive — offered to borrow Barnes, providing the Elland Road club continued to pay his wages!

Not surprisingly he was turned down flat — both by Leeds and Barnes. But he gets full marks from us for trying it.

NOBBY



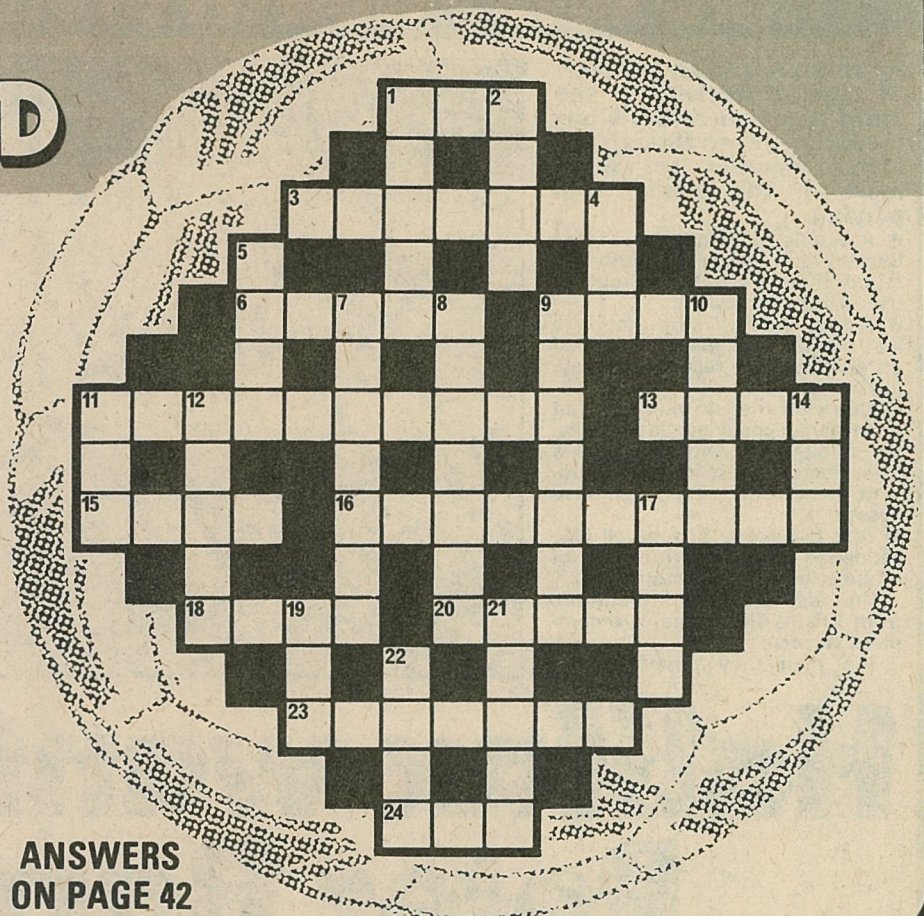
On the ball CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (1) Take three letters from the surname of Ivan GOLAC (Southampton) to make an engine part. (3)
- (3) Steve —, Derby County midfielder player. (7)
- (6) Remi —, Manchester United midfielder player. (5)
- (9) "Chopped" out of the team! (4)
- (11) Spurs midfielder player, (4 & 6)
- (13 & 2 Down) Nottingham Forest defender. (4)
- (15) — Gates, Ipswich Town striker. (4)
- (16) — United, Fourth Division club from Victoria Ground. (10)
- (18) — O-E-P-K (Plymouth ground). Make the missing letters into a word for hurt. (4)
- (20) Throw away — as a missed opportunity to score! (5)
- (23) Justin of Nottingham Forest or John of Norwich City. (7)
- (24) If Ashton Gate, Oakwell Ground & Ayresome Park give "SAY", what do Shawfield Stadium, Roker Park & Edgar Street give? (3)

DOWN:—

- (1) John —, Sunderland striker. (5)
- (2) See 13 Across. (4)
- (4) Graham —, Arsenal midfielder player. (3)
- (5) — Varadi, Newcastle striker. (4)
- (7) Derek —, West Bromwich Albion defender. (7)
- (8) A bird, or . . . John —, Exeter City defender. (7)
- (9) Osvaldo —, Spurs midfielder player. (7)
- (10) — Gradi, former Crystal Palace manager. (5)
- (11) Bertie —, who, as manager, steered Arsenal to the League & Cup double in 1970/71. (3)
- (12) — Bertschin, Norwich City striker. (5)
- (14) No score in Kenilworth Road Ground, Luton! (3)
- (17) Take four letters from "POMPEY" to make a verse. (4)
- (19) In short, he controls the game. (3)
- (21) Trophy or medal given for achievement. (5)
- (22) Jeunesse —, European Cup-Winners' Cup team from Luxembourg (4)



ANSWERS
ON PAGE 42

SHOOT/TYMEART COMPETITION RESULT

In our Tymeart Competition issue dated 3rd October, 1981, readers were invited to identify three pictured players, the correct answers were:

- 1 — Brian McDermott;
- 2 — Byron Stevenson;
- 3 — Nick Holmes.

Having considered all entries the judges chose the twelve nearest correct entries, with age taken into account, as being the best received. The senders of the entries each win a Tymeart Soccer Clock, they are:

Matthew Anderson, Poole. Nigel Cann, Mansfield. Neill Elliot, Torpoint. Henry Fisher, Middlesbrough. Mark Jones, Rugeley. Paul Lee, Mansfield. Colin Newman, Cranleigh. Paul O'Neill, Firhouse. Gavin Osborne, Doncaster. Neil Reid, Aberdeen. Stephen Winchin, Maghull. Neill Taylor, Cambridge.



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SOCCER HOLIDAYS WITH THE STARS

THE ideal soccer holiday for thousands of football followers this year will be a trip to sunny Spain for the World Cup Finals. But at more than £2,000, it can work out to be quite a costly business.

So for many young enthusiasts it could quite easily be a holiday with a difference at one of the many coaching clinics which have sprung up throughout Britain in recent years.

The courses, generally aimed at youngsters aged between eight and 21, concentrate almost solely on improving the skills and techniques of the young player.

To help in this aim, the companies which run the soccer holidays find it is better to bring all the youngsters together for one-week intensive training courses at their own particular centre.

Every course is run by fully qualified F.A. Coaches, and most are also able to offer personal tuition from leading professional players.

The largest of the companies running such holidays are PGL

Trevor Brooking, Bobby Charlton, Paul Cooper, Clive Allen, Mark Lawrenson, Alan Brazil and Paul Sturrock are just some of the leading players connected with football's fastest growing industry.

Holidays of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. This year they will be running 46 courses at nine centres throughout England and Scotland, and in addition to their standard five-day course for players aged eight to 18, they will also operate courses for girls and a seven-day soccer holiday in Holland.

Trevor Brooking, Graeme Souness, David Johnson, Steve Williams, Jimmy Nicholl and Paul Sturrock were just some of the top stars who attended last year.

Another big name in the world of soccer who is now involved in this field is former England and Manchester United star Bobby Charlton, who now runs his own *Residential Soccer School* in Manchester.



ABOVE: West Ham and England star midfielder player Trevor Brooking teams up with a young fan at a PGL course.

LEFT: Proud football fans show off their awards won during their stay at the Bobby Charlton Residential Soccer School.

BELOW LEFT: Safe goalkeeping — that's the lesson to be learnt from Ipswich 'keeper Paul Cooper, who runs a specialised academy.



With one coach to every 20 boys, specialised attention is guaranteed by Bobby, who is just one of many star names concerned with training the boys.

One club which seems to be taking a particular interest in the development of young talent is Ipswich Town.

This year Alan Brazil, Eric Gates and Kevin O'Callaghan will all be at *Stowe School of Sport*, Buckingham while Paul Cooper intends to run his specialised Goalkeeping School there for a week in August.

Paul will also be running the *Sobinberry National Goalkeeper Centre* at Westerfield House, Ipswich during the summer.

Meanwhile, at Worth Abbey School, Crawley, Sussex, such star

names as Mark Lawrenson, Peter Ward and Jimmy Case will be in attendance to coach for the *Selective Leisure Company*, which runs its soccer holidays for boys aged between ten and 16 years of age. This year they are also featuring a Football Festival between 18th July-26th August for which entire teams are invited to enter.

The *One-Touch Soccer Clinic* of Bromley, Kent, is regularly visited by stars like Peter Nicholas, Paul Hinshelwood, Clive Allen and Mike Flanagan, while *Sandfield Sports*, who are based at the University of Aston Recreation Centre in Birmingham, specialise in teaching players of all standards, aged from 13 right up to 25.

All the holidays, as well as helping to improve and train the young footballer, feature competitive prizes with awards and medals as well as lectures, film shows, visits to League grounds and other recreational diversions.

So if you can't afford to fly off to Spain this summer, you could most certainly do worse than sharpen your skills at one of these specialised soccer holiday centres.

Who knows... you could end up playing in the World Cup Finals yourself!

SHOOT: The Central American representatives are traditionally also-rans in World Cup Finals. What sort of role do you think Honduras can play in your first-ever Finals?

MARADIAGA: Being realistic, we can play only a modest role, and we know our own limitations. I think we must accept the World Cup Finals as a great chance to learn against some of the best footballing nations in the world.

SHOOT: Bearing in mind Mexico's performance in Argentina in 1978, do you think you can do better? And would you say that Central American football has improved in the last four years?

MARADIAGA: I think so, on both counts. It's fair to say that we are advancing all the time, and I would say that we should produce football of at least the same quality that Tunisia displayed in 1978.

SHOOT: How seriously have you prepared your World Cup campaign?

MARADIAGA: Very seriously. The football authorities have given the national team a great boost in the last few years, and when we began our qualifying matches the squad was concentrated right from the beginning of the year, and our clubs had to play without us. I think this policy is very positive, because football is the great passion in our country and success

SHOOT: You mentioned physical fitness as one of your strong points. Can you compete with, say, the West Germans or the Russians?

MARADIAGA: Players like Gilberto, Arzu, Bailey, Allan Costly and myself played in the World Youth Tournament in Tunisia in 1977, and we had no problems in this respect. Also, our trainer, Clovis Morales, worked for some time in West Germany, so he knows exactly what we've got to do to compete at the highest level. In fact I'd say our physical fitness was one of the fundamental factors in our qualifying for the Finals, because I'd admit that players in Central American countries like Guatemala,



SPAIN 82
WORLD CUP
CAPTAINS

No.4

RAMON MARADIAGA
Honduras



'We're fit, well prepared

for the national team at football means a boost for the whole of Honduras.

SHOOT: What are the strengths of the Honduras team?

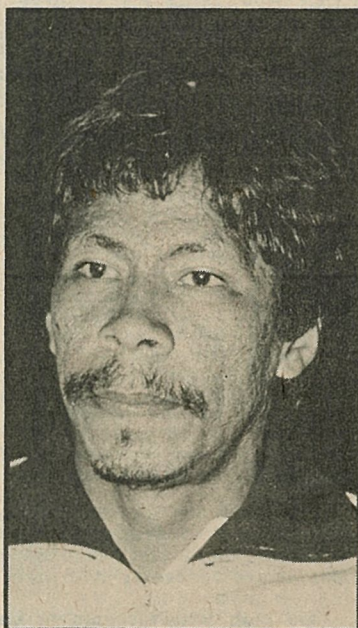
MARADIAGA: I think our level of physical fitness is a big factor; so is the way we look for goals almost as soon as we're in the opponents' half. We play fast football; we're not afraid to shoot at goal; and I'd like to think we play attractive football.

SHOOT: And the weaknesses?

MARADIAGA: We're lacking in ball skills compared with some other nations on our continent. But this is something we're working on, and we always aim to compensate for individual skills with good team-work and a good team spirit. Having said that, our lack of ball skills means we sometimes have trouble in retaining possession. And sometimes we tend to panic and lose our self-control and confidence. But these are defects that can be corrected with experience.

SHOOT: What sort of international experience has the team had?

MARADIAGA: Fundamentally, two long tours of Spain. In fact, we probably know Spain better than any of the other teams who've qualified. We've also played a lot of games against club sides from a lot of different countries, like Brazil, Czechoslovakia and England.



El Salvador and Costa Rica probably have more individual ball skills than we do. But we are fitter and faster to the ball.

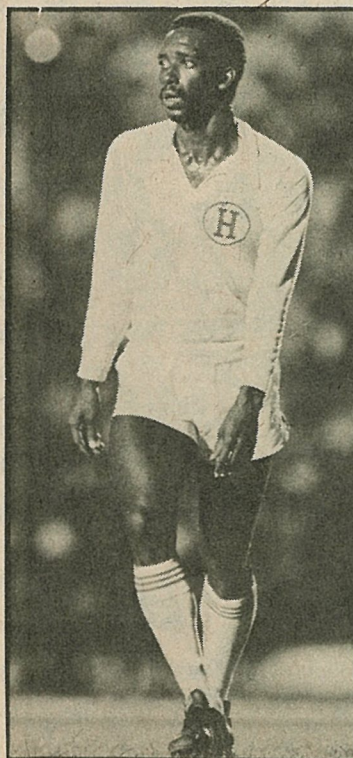
SHOOT: You said that your ambitions are modest. Do you think that you can beat anyone?

MARADIAGA: It's difficult to say. I can imagine us having a chance of getting a good result against Chile or Peru, for example, because they play a similar type of football. As

ABOVE ... The Honduran team which qualified for the Finals for the first time. LEFT ... Ramon Maradiaga, nicknamed El Primitivo.

BELOW ... One of the Costly brothers — Junior.

RIGHT ... Honduras toured Spain last summer and here 'keeper Arzu dives at the feet of a Valencia forward.



for the others, I can only say that we have an excellent library of films of the countries who have qualified, and this will give us a chance to prepare thoroughly for each match.

SHOOT: Psychologically, will Honduras arrive in Spain with an inferiority complex?

MARADIAGA: No. As I've said, we know our limitations, but we also



in Spain's summer temperatures, won't you?

MARADIAGA: Yes, this could be an important factor in our favour. Not only are we used to playing in very high temperatures, but also a number of the European teams may find it very difficult to maintain an all-action style for 90 minutes in those conditions.

SHOOT: On the other hand, you presumably won't have much support...

MARADIAGA: Well, it is an expensive trip for the average fan in Honduras, but maybe as many as 5,000 will make the journey to Spain with us. Don't forget, though, that there are a lot of Hondurans who live and work in Spain, so we could enjoy better support than some other nations. We've also made a lot of friends on our tours and I think a lot of the local people will be on our side.

SHOOT: Your disciplinary record in the qualifying matches was better than most. Would you describe Honduras as a sporting team?

MARADIAGA: Yes, we always try to remember that football is fundamentally a sport, and we tackle hard but fairly. After all, the idea is to win the ball, not hurt the player.

SHOOT: Which teams among the other 23 were you particularly keen to avoid during the draw?

Honduras 0, El Salvador 0 in the play-offs... Honduran dangerman Roberto Figueroa (right) and El Salvador's Jose Rugamos in action.

example, and we use zonal marking. Basically we play a 4-3-3, though our winger Roberto Figueroa often falls back to help out in midfield.

SHOOT: Which players do you think might impress a world audience during the Finals?

MARADIAGA: Well, it's very difficult to talk about your friends and team-mates in this way. Apart from Figueroa we have some good attackers like Jimmy Bailey and Junior Costly. In midfield we have Salvador Bernárdez, Javier Toledo and myself. At the back there's Gilberto, who starred in the World Youth Tournament in 1977 and has been in Spain ever since. And Allan Costly, Hector Ramón Zelaya, Fernando Bulnes. Then there's Jimmy Steward in goal... Obviously we are not all big international names, but we have a young team and I believe that Honduran football is improving all the time, whereas in a lot of other countries I have the impression that it hasn't advanced much in recent years. As I said, this is an unforgettable experience and a wonderful opportunity for us to learn. I hope at the same time that the fans all over the world will simply appreciate our football.



HOW THEY QUALIFIED

Qualified, along with El Salvador, from the CONCACAF Central Zone preliminaries. The same two countries then qualified for Spain in the CONCACAF playoff tournament held in Honduras in November, 1981:

Mexico v Cuba 4-0
Canada v El Salvador 1-0
Honduras v Haiti 4-0
Haiti v Canada 1-1
Mexico v El Salvador 0-1
Honduras v Cuba 2-0
El Salvador v Cuba 0-0
Mexico v Haiti 1-1
Honduras v Canada 2-1
Haiti v Cuba 0-2
Mexico v Canada 1-1
Honduras v El Salvador 0-0
Haiti v El Salvador 0-1
Cuba v Canada 2-2
Honduras v Mexico 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Honduras	5	3	2	0	8:1	8	
2 El Salvador	5	2	2	1	2:1	6	
3 Mexico	5	1	3	1	6:3	5	
4 Canada	5	1	3	1	6:6	5	
5 Cuba	5	1	2	2	4:8	4	
6 Haiti	5	0	2	3	2:9	2	

and goal-hungry'



know our opponents, and we've already played in almost all of the World Cup stadiums. I imagine that everyone will expect us to lose, so there'll be no pressure on us, and we'll probably take the field more relaxed than our opponents. Anyway, in football it's always 11 against 11, and anything can happen.

SHOOT: Come to think of it, Honduras will feel very much at home

MARADIAGA: Ah! I don't know what to say! You see, there are two ways of looking at the draw. I mean, in footballing terms, our chances of beating Argentina or Brazil are minimal, but on the other hand it would be a tremendous experience to play against them. Apart from these two, I'd have said Italy and West Germany were the toughest propositions. But honestly the draw didn't make a lot of difference to us. For me personally it'll be the realisation of all my dreams if I lead my country's team out on to the pitch in the World Cup Finals, with all the world watching. My other dream is to play well!

SHOOT: At 23, you'll almost certainly be the youngest of the 24 captains. How long have you worn the armband?

MARADIAGA: Three years. Our manager, Chelato, asked me to be captain during my first year in the 'A' team, and of course I didn't hesitate to accept.

SHOOT: Talking about Chelato, what style of play do you think he'll favour during the Finals? Will you 'shut up shop' and try to avoid the sort of results Mexico got in 1978?

MARADIAGA: I don't think it would be sensible to change our style of play. We play a practical sort of football, and certainly we don't like to give too much away. But Chelato doesn't ask us to practise man-to-man marking for

THE MANAGER Chelato

JOSE De La Paz Herrera has been stuck with the nickname Chelato (Blondie!) since his street games with the rest of the kids in Tegucigalpa.

A skilful wing-half in his playing days, Chelato earned his coaching certificate soon after hanging up his boots, and spent two years studying training methods in Argentina before returning to Honduras and hitting the headlines by leading Espana to their first ever League title — the first-ever victory by a club from outside the capital.

Famous overnight, he was offered the job of national team manager in 1979, and the diminutive 39-year-old has the impressive record of two victories in Central American competitions (where Mexico normally dominate) plus the tremendous feat of qualifying Honduras for their first-ever World Cup Finals with one defeat in 13 matches.

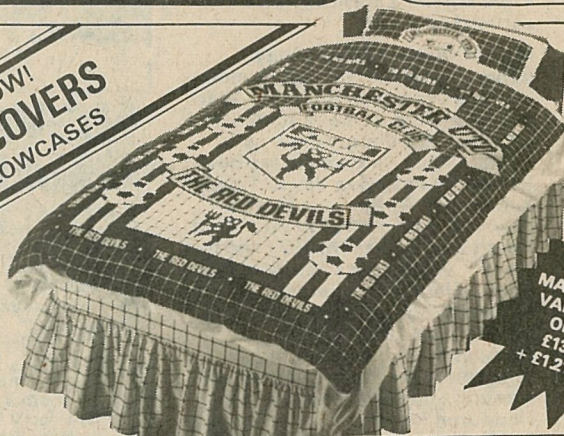
He's idolised so much in Honduras that he finds it difficult to support the pressures created by a soccer-mad society.

But when he tried to resign after the solitary defeat in Guatemala, overwhelming public reaction persuaded him to stay.

NEXT WEEK: Wilfried Van Moer, Belgium.

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Wisbech

THE North American Soccer League is being restructured into three divisions for the 1982 season.

The League schedule, 32 games per club, is divided into a six-team Western Division, a four-team Eastern Division and a four-team Southern Division.

All clubs will play every opponent home and away with remaining games being scheduled against divisional opponents.

The 1982 NASL play offs will include the three division winners, plus five "wild card" teams.

The League has decided to continue with its Soccer Bowl format in determining the NASL Champion.

Suggestions had been made to make the Championship series a multiple-game format, but, said supremo Phil Woosnam: "The NASL has enjoyed such great success in the week-long build-up leading to the main soccer event of the year, Soccer Bowl, that the members voted to continue the format."

DISCO KING

THE crazy world of football keeps turning up surprises, and one of the more recent ones was the news that in Spain a well-known soccer personality is charging £1,500 a session for doing chat shows in discotheques around the country.

And we're not talking about one of the country's top stars — the expensive showman is none other than Doctor Alfonso Cabeza, the president of Atlético Madrid!

I can't imagine many British discos forking out £1,500 for a quick song-and-dance from Messrs. Cobbold, Swales, Bamber, Millichip or Hill-Wood...

POLISH international forward Grzegorz Lato was given £140 by his Lokeren teammates to buy food supplies to send to his family back home to help them through the current difficult times.

"A fantastic gesture," said Lato. "I'm looking for the right words to express my feelings. I'll never forget this..."



BERND Schuster's season seems to have come to an abrupt end after a hefty tackle by Athletic Bilbao defender Antonio Goicoechea.

The 22-year-old West German midfielder needed a 3½-hour operation by German specialist Doctor Schneider in Cologne to repair damage to both ligaments and a cartilage in his right knee, and even the most optimistic forecasts mention a period of around three months before Schuster could even think of training.

Unfortunately, this type of injury has put players out of the game completely, so it's a question of keeping fingers crossed and hoping there are no complications.

Even so, Schuster has very little chance of being fit before the end of the Spanish season, and West Germany manager Jupp Derwall has all but crossed Schuster's name off his World Cup list.

The blond forward was having a running battle with the German national coach Jupp Derwall and was unpopular with several players. However, the German fans wanted him back in the team.

One of the players Schuster fell out with was Paul Breitner, restored to the national team after a period of 'international retirement'.

Breitner says: "I'll play for my country until the 1984 European Championship Finals and then I'll give the youngsters a chance," an obvious reference to the 22-year-old Schuster.

PELE'S ADVICE TO MARADONA

DIEGO Maradona's refusal to join the Argentine national team in their training camp is still sparking off fierce controversy in Argentina.

Amid all the turmoil, one of the things Diego appreciated most was a letter from Pele saying that he understood all the pressures surrounding superstar Maradona.

"I had similar moments during my own career," recalls the Brazilian ace, "and you will have moments not only now but also in the future when you find fame a heavy cross to bear."

"The important thing is to do what you really think is right, but without ever forgetting all the fans who admire you and who need your football to brighten their lives."

"And don't concentrate on material possessions. Just trust in God, and you will have a rewarding life."

"As soon as our timetables permit it, I'd like to meet you again to talk things over... and I want to see you playing in the World Cup Finals in June!"

Nice gesture from the world's undisputed Number One footballer, who's also one of the game's nicest gentlemen.



HAVING A BALL

THE "Tango España" made its official debut in the recent friendly between Spain and Belgium in Valencia.

The World Cup ball's makers Adidas claim that it "is easier to control and is pure perfection in flight."

In this particular game, however, the two goalkeepers, Jean-Marie Pfaff and Luis Arconada, had difficulties in catching the ball cleanly.

But Adidas are now distributing the ball to all 24 Finalists so that they're used to the new ball by the time they arrive in Spain.

WORLD WIDE



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

THE Anderlecht/Beveren game in Belgium was a bad tempered affair.

Beveren 'keeper Jean-Marie Pfaff was carried off with concussion after Anderlecht striker (I) Kenneth Brylle hit him.

Beveren midfielder and national team captain, 37-year-old Wilfried Van Moer, reacted by pushing Brylle away... and was ordered off.

"Now I've seen everything," Van Moer said afterwards. "This is my last season and the last time I'm being sent-off."

Meeuws not laughing now

WALTER MEEUWS, the central defender so vital to Belgium, is anxiously waiting to hear of his World Cup suspension.

He was sent-off in the last qualifier against Holland and fears a three-match suspension, which would mean him missing the first round of games in the Finals.

A big problem for manager Guy Thys, but a team-mate said: "I hope the manager picks Walter come what may because his sense of humour is so good for the atmosphere."

Belloumi tops in Africa

ALGERIAN midfielder Lakhdar Belloumi has been elected African Sportsman of the Year in a survey conducted by "Jeux d'Afrique" magazine.

Five footballers figured among the top ten, including four of the Cameroon team which has qualified for the World Cup Finals.

Have a look for yourself at the names rated the top sportsmen on the African continent:

- 1 Belloumi (Algeria: football)
- 2 Rono (Kenya: athletics)
- 3 Milla (Cameroon: football)
- 4 Kadir (Ethiopia: athletics)
- 5 N'Kono (Cameroon: football)
- 6 Obeng (Ghana: athletics)
- 7 Abega (Cameroon: football)
- 8 Tokoto (Cameroon: football)
- 9 Balcha (Ethiopia: athletics)
- 10 Maree (S.A.: athletics)

Strangely, the 1980 winner Miruts Yifter (double Olympic gold medalist in 1980) isn't among the 1981 top 20!



Lakhdar Belloumi

News flashes

● Spanish First Division newcomers Cádiz gleefully snapped up a pair of Czechoslovak internationals during the summer at the bargain-basement price of £60,000, but Gallis and Pivarnik have both performed so badly in the first half of the League programme that Cádiz have returned their dud Czechs to their country of origin.

● Brazil's World Cup squad will be called

together on April 20th and they start training on April 25th.

Two places will be left open — one will be for Falcão, who will join training as soon as Roma release him, and the other place will be for the third goalkeeper, who will probably be Carlos of Ponte Preta.

Brazil plan to arrive in Spain some ten days prior to the start of the World Cup.

● Since Uruguay's

elimination from the World Cup, 60 First Division players have left the country and signed for foreign teams.

● France's national team manager Michel Hidalgo is demanding special police protection for his players following a run of petty thefts.

Star midfielder Michel Platini has had a gold chain stolen, and other players have had their bags snatched while signing autographs.

**World Cup
stars to watch**

GRZEGORZ LATO

POLAND

EVEN at the ripe old age of 32, the balding Polish right-winger will be one of the strikers to watch in Spain. He seems to have lost none of the speed, strength and shooting power that made him top scorer in the 1974 World Cup Finals, and was one of the chief architects of Poland's decisive wins over East Germany in the 1982 qualifiers.

Born on April 8th, 1950, Lato rose to fame on the right wing at Stal Mielec, where his strong sprinting and dynamic finishing made him a nightmare for opposing defences. After notching up two League titles (in 1973 and 1976) Lato left Poland and signed for Belgian club Lokeren, who've made their mark in European football since his arrival.

In the meantime Lato has passed the 90-mark in his collection of international caps. His big break came in 1974 when he was called into the World Cup side to replace the injured Lubanski. He responded with seven goals in seven games to top the tournament's scoring list, and has never looked back since.

Now, he goes to his third and probably his last World Cup Finals hoping for a fitting climax to a memorable career.



MICHEL PLATINI

FRANCE

WATCH out for his super skills, aggressive finishing and lethal free-kicks. Platini spends hours in training bending free-kicks round a wall of inflatable 'defenders', and it was one of his special 'benders' that opened the scoring in the do-or-die match against Holland and sent a whole nation wild.

The talented number ten has been the undisputed idol of France for the last decade, and he's determined to confirm his reputation before a world audience in Spain.

Born on June 21st, 1955, he began with his local side at Joeuf before joining Nancy in 1972 and making his League debut in May, 1973.

His star performances soon made him a big name, and there was a queue of clubs waiting to sign him when his contract ran out in 1979.

St-Etienne won the race with a £16,000 per month contract and Nancy received just £50,000 compensation. With 'Les Verts' Platini has enjoyed domestic success, but international titles have eluded him.

In the meantime, he'd made his international debut in the same match as manager Michel Hidalgo in 1976 and has been France's top scorer in the last six years averaging with both club and country a goal every two games, and he's now within striking distance of Just Fontaine's all-time record of 27 goals for the national team.

SHOOT!



Mark Falco (white shirt) chases Kenny Swain of Aston Villa.

FALCO AIMS TO MAKE HIS MARK —AGAIN

MARK FALCO, the local lad who eclipsed all Tottenham Hotspur's big money stars when he burst on to the White Hart Lane scene at the beginning of the season before being injured in the League Cup-tie against Manchester United back in October, is determined to carry on where he left off by scoring goals.

Falco's nine goals in 12 games were a major reason for Spurs enjoying such a fine start to the season. But just as Mark was beginning to feel a genuine member of the first team, injury struck.

Falco's recovery from delicate surgery was highly satisfactory.

"I had the odd aches and pains when I first started light training," he said.

"That was only to be expected, though. But as much as I felt robbed of my first team place, and wanted to get back in contention, I wasn't going to rush things. The last thing I want is to be given another chance in the side, then either break down, or not be able to do myself justice because I wasn't 100 per cent right.

"I want to be able to score goals with the same regularity that I did before my injury, because I'm certain this current Spurs side is really going places, and I want to be part of that success."

Mark knows his battle to regain a regular first team place is going to be tough, with fierce competition for almost every position in the side — and particularly in attack — once everyone is fit. But it's a challenge he's looking forward to.

"I know the boss, Keith Burkinshaw, won't mind me

saying this, but I'm just one of several players out to give him a gigantic selection problem. And it's a problem he won't mind having, I'm sure," says Falco.

"Initially, I got my break in the side this season due to Garth Crooks' cartilage operation. Obviously it was tough on Garth, but I'd worked really hard to get myself in tip-top condition during the summer, and when my chance came, I was determined to make full use of it."

While the more illustrious names at the club were basking in the glory of their impressive F.A. Cup Final win — not to mention the sun — in exotic holiday settings, Falco was generating his own heat at home as he pushed himself

through a tough and lonely close-season training schedule.

"I've chosen to work on my own for the last couple of summers," explained Mark. "Doing athletic training and generally building myself up. I might be just over six feet tall, but despite my size I felt I was still getting knocked off the ball far too easily. And that's something no striker can afford to let happen to him, especially if he wants to make a name for himself in the First Division. So I wanted to put that right."

"I also felt I was a bit slower than I ought to be, and that was something else I worked hard on."

And Mark was certainly reaping just reward for his dedication until that night against United.

In fact, there seems to be something of a jinx on Spurs' strikers at the moment. First Crooks' knee trouble, then Falco's injury, and more recently Steve Archibald spent a few days in hospital.

But despite the fact that the other two cost in excess of £1 million and Falco didn't cost a penny, Mark is confident that the money aspect won't play a part in Keith Burkinshaw's thinking when it comes to team selection.

"The boss was good to me in the early days after my injury," Mark told us. "He went out of his way to show his concern for my recovery, and gave me the impression that so long as I can continue to deliver the goods — as I did in those early games — then I'd stand as much chance as anyone of being in the side. And that's exactly what I aim to do."

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LIVERPOOL AWAY



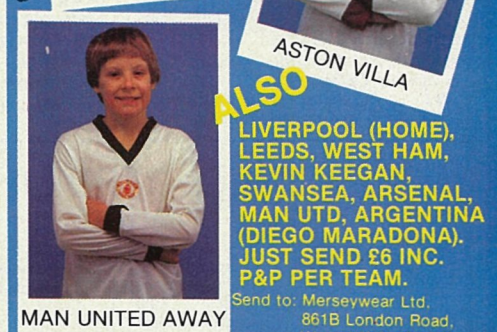
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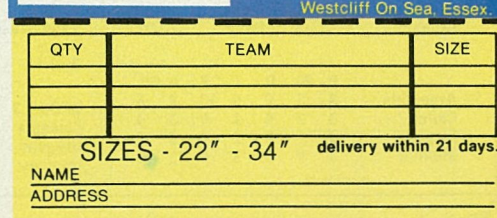
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PART ONE of the fascinating history of the World Cup.

URUGUAY 1930

It took 24 years for FIFA's dream of an official world football Championship to become reality.

From 1904 they argued that the Olympic games no longer offered a true test of the world's best nations.

But it was only the work and far-sightedness of two Frenchmen — Jules Rimet and Henri Delaunay — which finally gained official acceptance and backing for the World Cup in 1928.

Once the idea had been accepted

in principle it was necessary to find a nation willing to host the competition, which would make its debut two years later.

Five nations — Italy, Holland, Uruguay, Spain and Sweden — offered to stage the World Cup.

The South Americans were given the nod despite the distances involved because they generously offered to pay all hotel and travel expenses to the competing nations.

The Europeans, however, still refused to travel halfway across the world. Although France,



The Uruguayans fought back and eventually won 4-2. Here, they line-up before the game.

where they crushed Yugoslavia 6-1.

In the other Semi, the equally skilful Argentinians duplicated that scoreline against the USA to set up a repeat of the 1928 Olympic Final.

A crowd of 90,000 packed into the specially constructed Centenary Stadium in Montevideo for the first World Cup Final.

Within 12 minutes, Uruguay

went ahead thanks to a goal from Dorado and although Peucelle and Stabile surprisingly shot the Argentinians ahead, there was to be no holding the powerful Uruguayans.

Ten minutes into the second-half Pedro Cea levelled and further goals from Santos Iriarte and Castro completed the scoring. Uruguay were the first World Cup winners.

Jules Rimet, the man who had done so much to establish the World Cup, presented the golden trophy named after him.



ABOVE ... Argentina 'keeper Bosio saves against Chile.
RIGHT ... Stabile scores for Argentina in the 1930 Final against Uruguay.

A SLOW BOAT

Yugoslavia, Rumania and Belgium eventually relented, the best of Europe, including Italy and Germany, stayed at home and sulked.

Only 13 teams were to compete in Uruguay and as Britain was not a member of FIFA at the time, none of the Home Nations was among that number.

On Sunday, July 13, 1930 the first World Cup game kicked-off. France beat Mexico 4-1.

As well as being the host nation, Uruguay had also won the Olympic gold in 1924 and 1928, so not surprisingly they were favourites to become first World Champions.

They cruised to the Semi-Finals,



1st WORLD CUP Uruguay, 1930

GROUP 1

France	(3)4	Mexico	(0)1
Argentina	(0)1	France	(0)0
Chile	(1)3	Mexico	(0)0
Chile	(0)1	France	(0)0
Argentina	(3)6	Mexico	(0)3
Argentina	(2)3	Chile	(1)1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	3	0	0	10	4	6
Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
France	3	1	0	2	4	3	2
Mexico	3	0	0	3	4	13	0

GROUP 2

Yugoslavia	(2)2	Brazil	(0)1
Yugoslavia	(0)4	Bolivia	(0)0
Brazil	(1)4	Bolivia	(0)0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Brazil	2	1	0	1	5	2	2
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

GROUP 3

Romania	(1)3	Peru	(0)1
Uruguay	(0)1	Peru	(0)0
Uruguay	(4)4	Romania	(0)0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Romania	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Peru	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

GROUP 4

USA	(2)3	Belgium	(0)0
USA	(2)3	Paraguay	(0)0
Paraguay	(1)1	Belgium	(0)0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Belgium	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

SEMI-FINALS

Argentina	(1)6	USA	(0)1
Uruguay	(3)6	Yugoslavia	(1)1

FINAL: Montevideo 30.7.30

Attendance 90,000

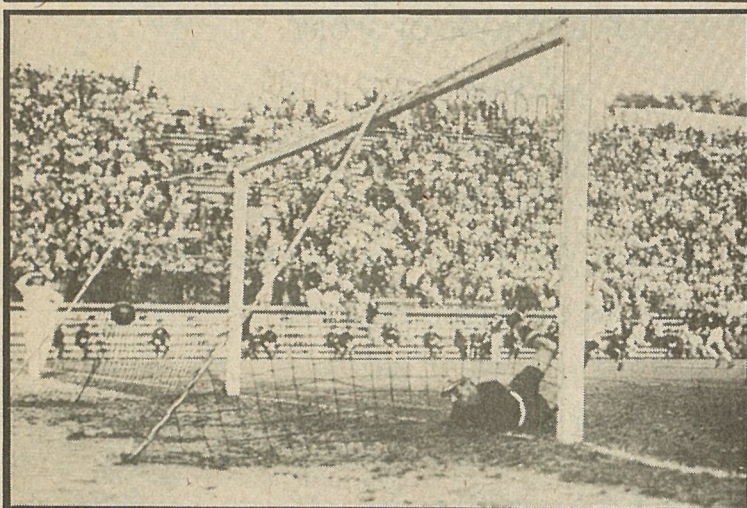
Uruguay (1)4 Argentina (2)2

URUGUAY: Ballesteros; Nasazzi (capt), Mascheroni, Andrade, Fernandez, Gestido, Dorado, Scarone, Castro, Cea, Iriarte

ARGENTINA: Botasso; Della Torre, Paternoster, Evaristo (J), Monti, Suarez, Peucelle, Varallo, Stabile, Ferreira (capt), Evaristo (M)

8,000 miles —for one game

Cocky Brazil pay the price



Italy's Combi is beaten by a shot from Czechoslovakia's Puc in the 1934 Final.

ITALY 1934

THE World Cup moved to Europe in 1934 where Italy, under the Fascist leadership of Mussolini, became the hosts.

Uruguay, still upset because the

nature. In the last minute, Zischek missed an open goal for the Austrians.

Czechoslovakia beat Germany 3-1 in the other Semi in Rome, returning to the Stadio Torino for the Final against the host nation.

Indeed, the skilful Czechs sur-

FRANCE 1938

WITH World War Two just three months away, the third World Cup Finals were played under an oppressive atmosphere.

Nazi Germany, having just lost 6-3 in Berlin to England, were determined to prove their supremacy but lost in a First Round replay to the Swiss despite the presence in their team of many Austrian stars who had fallen under Hitler's jurisdiction.

Italy, the defending Champions, were jeered in Marseilles by anti-Fascist demonstrators and were extremely fortunate to beat the Norwegians 2-1 in the First Round.

1938 was also the first time that the Brazilians gave notice of their footballing brilliance. When they beat Poland 6-5 in an amazing match, centre-forward Leonidas stood out like a jewel. He netted four times. There were six Brazilians making their international debut in that game.

Indeed, the skilful South Americans became so cocky that for the Semi-Final clash with Italy they actually rested Leonidas and another key player, Tim. They

were beaten 2-1.

In the other Semi-Final, mighty Hungary thrashed Sweden 5-1. Host nation France had fallen by the wayside, losing to Italy in the Second Round.

The Italians, in fact, were playing much better football than when they had taken the trophy four years previously, and it took them only six minutes of the Final in Paris to take the lead.

Although the Magyars equalised within a minute through Titkos, another goal from Colaussi and two more by Piola confirmed the Italians' supremacy.

Sarosi pulled one back for Hungary, but the Italians had become the first nation to successfully defend the World Cup.

Sadly, their achievement was soon to be overshadowed. While the football teams could meet in friendly combat, the politicians felt it necessary to go to War.

It was to be another 12 years before the World Cup was to re-surface.

NEXT WEEK: Sensational defeat for England

TO URUGUAY!

Italy (below) became the first country to retain the World Cup.

top Europeans had refused to participate four years earlier, had suffered a players' strike and failed to defend their title. Britain was still out of FIFA.

With the competition organised on a straight knock-out basis, Brazil, Argentina and USA all travelled 8,000 miles for just one game — all three losing in the First Round.

Italy swept through the early stages on a wave of propaganda and nationalistic fervour, and in the Semi-Final beat the much-fancied Austrians 1-0.

In the mud and rain of Milan, the only goal came from Guaita, the Argentinian right-winger whose qualification for the Italian team was of a rather questionable

prised the fiercely partisan home crowd by taking the game to the Italians.

With 70 minutes gone Puc shot the underdogs into the lead, but a freak goal by Raimondo Orsi took the game into extra time.

After 97 minutes Italy took the lead for the first time through Schiavio and held out despite fierce pressure for the remaining 23 minutes.

Once again the host nation had triumphed and the Fascist propaganda machine stepped up a gear...

Incidentally, the day after the Final, Orsi tried to repeat his goal for the Press cameramen. He tried 20 times without success... and without a goalkeeper!



2nd WORLD CUP Italy, 1934

FIRST ROUND

Italy	(3)7	USA	(0)1
Czechoslovakia	(0)2	Romania	(1)1
Germany	(1)5	Belgium	(2)2
Austria	(1)(1)3	France	(1)(1)2
Spain	(3)3	Brazil	(1)1
Switzerland	(2)3	Netherlands	(1)2
Sweden	(1)3	Argentina	(1)2
Hungary	(2)4	Egypt	(1)2

SECOND ROUND

Germany	(1)2	Sweden	(0)1
Austria	(1)2	Hungary	(0)1
Italy	(0)(1)1	Spain	(1)(1)1
Italy	(1)1	Spain	(0)0
Czechoslovakia	(1)3	Switzerland	(1)2

SEMI-FINALS

Czechoslovakia	(1)3	Germany	(0)1
Italy	(1)1	Austria	(0)0

THIRD PLACE MATCH, Naples			
Germany	(3)3	Austria	(1)2

FINAL: Rome 10.6.34

Attendance 55,000

Italy	(0)(1)2	Czech.	(0)(1)1
-------	---------	--------	---------

ITALY: Combi (capt); Monzeglio, Allemanni, Ferraris, Monti, Bertolini, Guaita, Meazza, Schiavio, Ferrari, Orsi
CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Planicka (capt); Zenisek, Ctyroky, Kostalek, Cambal, Kroil, Junek, Svoboda, Sobotka, Nejedly, Puc

3rd WORLD CUP France, 1938

FIRST ROUND

Switzerland	(1)(1)1	Germany	(0)(1)1
Switzerland	(0)4	Germany	(2)2
Cuba	(0)(2)3	Romania	(1)(2)3
Cuba	(2)2	Romania	(1)1
Hungary	(4)6	Dutch East Indies	(0)0
France	(2)3	Belgium	(1)1
Czech	(0)(0)3	N'lands	(0)(0)0
Brazil	(3)(4)6	Poland	(1)(4)5
Italy	(1)(1)2	Norway	(0)(1)1

SECOND ROUND

Sweden	(4)8	Cuba	(0)0
Hungary	(1)2	Switzerland	(0)0
Italy	(1)3	France	(1)1
Brazil	(1)(1)1	Czechoslovakia	(0)(1)1
Brazil	(0)2	Czechoslovakia	(1)1

SEMI-FINALS

Italy	(2)2	Brazil	(0)1
Hungary	(3)5	Sweden	(1)1

THIRD PLACE MATCH: Bordeaux			
Brazil	(1)4	Sweden	(2)2

FINAL: Paris 19.6.38, Attendance 65,000

Italy	(3)4	Hungary	(1)2
-------	------	---------	------

ITALY: Olivieri; Foni, Rava, Serantoni, Andreolo, Locatelli, Biavati, Meazza (capt), Piola, Ferrari, Colaussi
HUNGARY: Szabo; Polgar, Biro, Szalay, Szucs, Lazar, Sas, Vincze, Sarosi (capt), Szengeller, Titkos

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DON Howe's appointment as Ron Greenwood's number two could be the spark that ignites the England players who have only six months to erase the memory of their nightmare qualifying path to Spain.

Such emphasis was put on actually getting to the Finals that this period of post-celebration is something of an anti-climax. And with the same faces — Greenwood, Dave Sexton, Terry Venables and Co — now attempting to weld together a World Cup Finals squad, the addition of Arsenal's widely respected master-coach may prove just the tonic.

One man who believes Howe can give England a big boost is Pat Jennings, Arsenal's Northern Ireland international goalkeeper.

"No disrespect to the England camp, but Don can only do good for the squad," says Jennings.

"He was the man behind Arsenal's League Championship and F.A. Cup 'double' team in 1971. His partnership with Bertie Mee was a tremendous success, and the same kind of thing could happen with Ron Greenwood.

'Individuals'

"Don knows how to motivate players, he can get the best out of a whole squad. Players are individuals, and each has strengths and weaknesses, each needs individual help sometimes. Don can provide that help by using the rest of the squad in his endless variety of coaching routines.

"It is important to remember that Don Howe's playing career was a distinguished one. He played for West Bromwich Albion and Arsenal, and during his time at The Hawthorns he won 23 consecutive caps for England at right-back.

"That unbroken run of appearances included England's four World Cup games in the 1958 Finals in Sweden. So he knows the game inside out. He knows the pressures of being a top player.

"Don has the respect of the players. We know there are no favourites in his book. He is a hard man, but he is a fair one. He has managed to do one of the most difficult things in the game — work closely with a group of senior players for a long time, earn their

respect yet avoid becoming too familiar with them. We still know he is in charge.

"He knows all the tricks and can spot a player taking it easy very quickly. He has no time for shirking. He gives everything to his club and players and he expects the same in return.

"It is unfair to give an image of a man without revealing both sides of his character. Don has a great sense of humour. But once again he insists there is a time and place for everything. When it's time to work, then you know you've been through a training session.

"One of the secrets of Don's

success is that he never allows our work to become boring. There is not much you can do about the tough stuff — you have to graft to keep in peak condition and that is just sweat, hard work and determination.

"But when we are working with the ball, Don devises so many varied routines that the players become absorbed in his ideas and his tactical knowledge.

"I know I could end up playing against England in Spain, and with Don now so closely involved, I know that game will be a very hard one."

To any England players who think they have a divine right to a ticket to Spain, take a few tips from international players who have worked under Howe in the past.

Frank McLintock (Scottish

international and double-year skipper): "Don is the best in the business. He treats men like men and expects them to act accordingly."

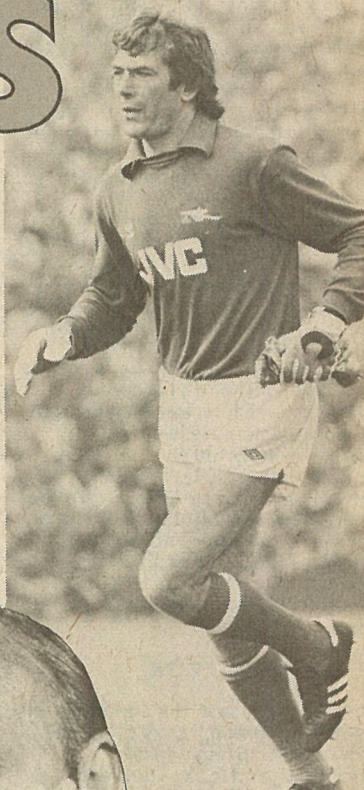
Malcolm Macdonald (England international and former Arsenal striker): "Don can strike fear into your heart with one look. Not a man to cross nor one to attempt to fool. But a first-class coach and a player's man

Bob Wilson (Scottish international and ever-present in the double side): "I rate Don the best there is. He is a winner by nature and will be a boost for the whole England camp."

So prima donnas beware! Past achievements count for very little in Don Howe's eyes. It is what happens in the next few months that matters, and Howe will be right at the heart of the action.

HOWE'S THAT!

'Don can only improve England' says PAT JENNINGS



Howe on international duty with England boss Ron Greenwood.



JIM BLYTH

the non-playing World Cup star

JIM Blyth could be set to make it to his second World Cup Finals in four years — without playing a game.

The case of the Coventry goalkeeper is a curious one. But perhaps Scottish fans won't be too surprised, for recent events to do with Scottish 'keepers tend to wear a cloak of unpredictability to say the very least.

Blyth, who went to Argentina with the Scots only to sit on the substitute's bench, and never get on to the field, admits: "The same thing might happen this time in Spain.

"I feel I have a chance of making the Scottish squad if I maintain my form. There are not too many Scottish goalkeepers around in English football and a couple of the Scottish goalies Jock Stein tried recently had a difficult time.

"So I'm hoping I will get a call-up for Spain, although I accept my chances of displacing Alan Rough are pretty slim. He is very firmly and decisively the Number One."

Rangers' Jim Stewart and Aberdeen's Jim Leighton were the men Stein tried. But neither made a great impression, nor did St. Mirren's Billy Thomson, who played against Portugal in Scotland's final World Cup qualifying match.

'Impress'

"I feel a place in the squad is well within my grasp," says Blyth. "I am sure Mr. Stein will be having a good look round the Scottish and English Leagues before he names his squad in the Spring. It's up to me to impress, not just when he sees me but all the time."

But what if Blyth does make the squad. Can he ever dislodge the man in possession, Alan Rough? "I don't think Alan has ever been put under constant pressure," says Blyth.

"Of course, his record speaks for itself but I would like to think I can start putting some pressure on him. I feel I am playing well enough and I hope Mr. Stein will give me a chance in the British Championship.

"Then it would be up to me.

"Obviously, I would love to go to Spain, even if I wasn't first choice. If you're in the squad, it's a terrific honour for someone as patriotic and proud of Scotland as I am.

"I would be prepared to go even if I had to sit on the bench all the time. I know that can be frustrating if you are competitive and want to play. But it's a whole

lot better than not being there at all."

Meanwhile, Blyth feels Coventry's problems revolve around that old one of inconsistency. "The sad fact is, we are capable of beating anybody in the First Division — and have done at some stage. But anyone can beat us, too, and that's why we're still in mid-table rather than up near the top."



Fillery's hat-trick target

MIKE Fillery began the season with three firm ambitions. The Chelsea midfielder man, one of the most skilful players in the Second Division, wanted to complete three achievements by the end of the season.

First, he wanted to be more consistent; second, to win an Under-21 cap; third, to help Chelsea win promotion.

Halfway through the League season, Fillery is able to report progress on two but is still unsure about the third. He said: "I still believe that Chelsea can win promotion. And I think I have gone some of the way to becoming a more consistent player.

"As for the Under-21 cap, I don't know. I can only wait and see with regard to that, although if my form is good for Chelsea, I must improve my chances."

Chelsea were fifth in the table after 20 League games, with a match in hand on some rivals above them. Fillery said: "I feel we can do it. The club learned a lot from the two close encounters of the past years and I feel we are better equipped to go up with John Neal as manager.

"There is a quiet, firm authority about the man. He has plenty of experience and seems to know where he is going and how he is going about the job. That encourages everyone.

"I believe it will be a terrific scrap right up to the end of the season. Luton might run away with it, but apart from them I cannot see anyone else pulling too far away.

"With three points for a win, a big lead isn't as impressive as it was in previous seasons. So even Luton can't take anything for granted."

Fillery feels a lack of consistency has always held him back. "I've had some good games and then played poorly for the next couple of matches," he says. "I want to eliminate that inconsistency by playing well for a long solid spell.

"But I feel consistency does come with experience and this is my third full season in the first team. I've learned a lot in that time and I feel it's coming to me now. I am playing better than I was overall, and that is heartening.

'Step Up'

"As for my England ambitions, well, I can't say how close or far away I am. Being picked would mean a lot to me — it would mean another step up the ladder, and probably give me more self confidence. But that must wait for the present — and it certainly won't do me any good by worrying or thinking about it."

Fillery is convinced Chelsea's promotion chances are brighter with John Neal in charge. And he adds: "The spirit is good enough for us to do it this time. We blew our promotion hopes in the second half of last season but I'm sure we all learned from that awful experience.

"We don't want to go through that again or the agony we suffered when we missed out on goal difference. Perhaps the experience we have all gained from those occasions will tip the scales in our favour this time."

WITH so many First Division clubs already out of the F.A. Cup this could well be the year of the underdog.

As I write only two are guaranteed a place in the Fifth Round, the winners of the Manchester City v. Coventry and Spurs v. Leeds ties. The Rotherham v Sunderland replay hadn't been decided.

But Aston Villa should add a third to the list after a visit to Third Division strugglers Bristol City.

If you detect a note of caution in that last sentence you'd be right. It's never easy for top clubs, especially League Champions, who have to travel to face one of the teams from the lower Divisions.

All small clubs playing at home in a Cup competition are potential giant-killers because everything is stacked in their favour.

No one expects them to win, so the pressure is off. Playing against

the Third Round I'm confident of a good win to set us on the road to Wembley.

I've never played at the famous stadium and desperately want to realise that ambition this year.

We might have left it too late for the title, but the F.A. Cup is well within our reach.

If Villa can retain the sensational form that devastated Notts County in the last round nobody will stop us, not even an improved Liverpool.

Naturally it was a great result for Villa, but a disgrace for County. No First Division club should be beaten at home 6-0 in any competition.

That must rate as Villa's finest away performance, certainly it was the highest scoring result I've been involved with.

Villa seem to save their best form for away games. Perhaps more fans should travel with us.

There's no explanation for these freak results, they just happen. Every now and again everything you

'I must be tougher'

Villa will be Bristol City's Cup Final, their match of the season.

I almost experienced a giant-killing act in the Fourth Round of the League Cup when Villa visited Wigan.

The muddy pitch suited the Fourth Division side, who relied heavily on the physical side of the game.

This generally happens when one of the League's minnows plays against a bigger fish. They can't match you for skill or style so they try to knock you out of your stride.

Fortunately, Villa came through unscathed and won 2-1 thanks to a last minute goal from Peter Withe.

I didn't really enjoy the trip to Wigan, but I am looking forward to playing at Bristol City even though it's Villa's tenth successive away draw in Cup competitions. It's a ridiculous situation, but one we've obviously got to put up with.

Struggling

I don't know much about Bristol City except that they're struggling to stay in the Third Division and have a caretaker manager in Roy Hodgson following Bob Houghton's resignation.

Ashton Gate is a happy hunting ground for me. The last time I played there I scored my one and, so far, only League hat-trick.

League positions will mean nothing on Saturday. The F.A. Cup is a great leveller.

Amazing to think that City were in the First Division a couple of years ago.

I know Villa have been inconsistent this season, but after our great result at Notts County in



GARY SHAW

Soccer as I see it



Villa were almost victims of a giant-killing act by Fourth Division Wigan in the League Cup but Peter Withe scored a last minute winner.

try comes off . . . every pass reaches a man . . . every shot is on target.

That's only happened to Villa once before in my memory, when we hammered Liverpool 5-1 a few years ago.

I was on the terraces at the time and was stunned as Villa tore Liverpool to shreds and were five up by half-time.

Liverpool shut up shop in the second-half and kept the score to 5-1.

Unlike the mighty Reds, Notts County offered Villa no resistance after conceding two very early goals.



Obviously I was disappointed. I consider myself a first team regular and didn't like the idea of being left out, but I accepted the decision.

Mind you, if I'd been told I was to be out for a lengthy period then I would have been a bit concerned about my future at the club.

At the time, Ron Saunders was justified in dropping me. He felt I wasn't contributing enough to the team. Ron wanted me to be more aggressive.

"You're an easy touch. You can lose the ball too easily at times. I want you to be more like Denis Law and Kenny Dalglish," he said.

If being like Kenny and Denis helps my game, then so be it. I will try to develop a mean streak.

I did put myself about a lot more against Notts County, fought for the ball and shrugged off challenges.

So perhaps being dropped has improved my game.

See you all next time . . .

That seemed to shatter their confidence and they never created a clear cut chance. They had no fight, cohesion or method.

I should have added to the one goal I scored, but overall I was satisfied with my performance.

I hit a post and was involved in the action most of the time, chasing back when I lost the ball, getting in a few tackles.

That pleased manager Ron Saunders almost as much as the result.

A week or so before the match he called me over after training and told me: "I'm leaving you out. We haven't been getting the goals lately and I want to try something different. You might not be back for two or three games. We'll see how it goes."

TAKE A BREAK IT'S

QUIZ TIME



GOALKEEPERS

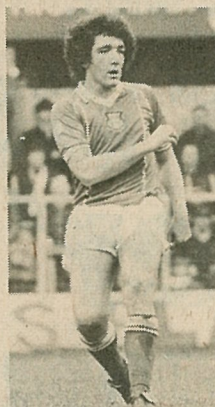
1. Nicky Johns (left) is keeping goal for which London club?
2. Bolton number one Jim McDonagh began his League career with Rochdale, Reading or Rotherham United?
3. Did Alex Stepney or Gary Bailey keep goal for Manchester United in their 1-0 defeat by Southampton in the 1976 F.A. Cup Final at Wembley?
4. Swansea's Dai Davies has played for two other League clubs... can you name them?
5. Ivan Katalinic of Southampton is an international for which country?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Oxford United's record transfer fee paid was £75,000 to Cardiff City for Andy McCulloch in July, 1974.
2. Tommy Hutchison of Manchester City (right) began his career in Scotland with Alloa.
3. Ipswich Town have won the First Division Championship on two occasions.
4. Howard Kendall is Everton's eighth manager since the last War.
5. Third Division Darlington play their home games at Feethams and are nicknamed The Quakers.



F.A. CUP



The F.A. Cup Third Round was played recently. Can you answer the following questions about the ties?

1. Can you name the Everton player who missed a penalty against West Ham at Upton Park in their 2-1 defeat?
2. Did Alan Brazil or John Wark score Ipswich Town's winner in their 3-2 victory against Birmingham City at St Andrews?
3. Second Division Norwich City travelled to Stoke City and beat them 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0?
4. One of the upsets of the round was Wrexham's fine 3-1 win at Nottingham Forest. Steve Dowman (left) and Mick Vinter scored two of the goals... who scored the other?
5. Manchester United were another First Division club to be knocked out by a team from the Second Division. Watford beat United 1-0 thanks to a goal from Jan Lohman. Did he score in the first or second-half?

PICTURE PUZZLE



Study this photograph, taken during a Coventry v. Aston Villa game this season, and see if you can answer the following questions about the match and the two clubs.

On the ball answers

ACROSS: (1) Cog. (3) Spooner. (6) Moses. (9) Axed. (11) Mike Hazard. (13) Bryn. (15) Eric. (16) Hartlepool. (18) Harm. (20) Waste. (23) Fashanu. (24) Hod (2nd letters).
DOWN: (1) Cooke. (2) Gunn. (4) Rix. (5) Imre. (7) Statham. (8) Sparrow. (9) Ardiles. (10) Dario. (11) Mee. (12) Keith. (14) Nil. (17) Poem. (19) Ref. (21) Award. (22) Esch.

1. Is the Coventry City player Danny Thomas or Garry Thompson?
2. Can you identify the Villa player on the right?
3. Is it true to say that both players have played for the England 'B' team?
4. Coventry City and Aston Villa both progressed through to the F.A. Cup Fourth Round. Can you name their respective opponents in the Third Round?
5. Coventry's best season was in 1969-70 when they finished fourth, fifth or sixth in the First Division?

JUMBLED STRIKERS

Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the names of some of Britain's top strikers and their clubs.

1. RHGTAOSKROC (OMTATNETH)
2. KARMMEcEHG (ENAEBERD)
3. LYLACTISMOC (EDDNNULASRI)
4. LEYLRIcEGSR (ETSWMHRCBIOW)
5. IJMNBEQ (TSRMNERI)
6. YNADEIHRC (OTBGNHRI)
7. HJNOGHOUNDTWR (WYSSBHRUE)
8. RGYANEERIKL (IEETSRL)

ANSWERS:

Lineker (Leicester).
Dunworth (Shrewsbury). 8. Gary
6. Andy Ritchie (Brighton). 7. John
Bromwich. 5. Jim Boney (St Mirren).
(Sunderland). 4. Cyrille Regis (West
McGhee (Aberdeen). 3. Ally McCoist
Crooks (Tottenham). 2. Mark
County. 5. Sixth.
Sheffield Wednesday and Notts
is an Under-21 international. 4.
has played for the 'B' side. Thomas
Tony Morley. 3. No — only Morley
PICTURE PUZZLE. 1. Thomas. 2.
Fourth Division not the Third.
True. 5. False — they play in the
False — they have won it once. 4.
TRUE OR FALSE. 1. True. 2. True. 3.
and Wrexham. 5. Yugoslavia.
Rotherham. 3. Stepney. 4. Everton
GOALKEEPERS. 1. Charlton. 2.
Dixie McNeil. 5. First-half.
1. Trevor Ross. 2. Brazil. 2. 1-0. 4.

SHAKY LEEDS

A RTHUR Graham flung his towel in a corner, slumped into a chair and spelt out the answer to Leeds United's mystifying Jekyll and Hyde form.

"Confidence," he said. "We have a first-class squad of experienced professionals, a fair number of international players among them, but away from Elland Road we are simply not producing the goods."

"I believe it is a matter of grafting out one good away result and this nightmare start to the season will be over."

"At the moment, if we concede an early goal things go from bad to worse. It just needs a bit of luck, the run of the ball and our confidence will flood back."

Despite their impressive F.A. Cup win at Wolves, some critics have suggested that Leeds United do not buckle down to the demands of playing away from home.

And by the time they had lost a straight eight out of eight First Division matches on their travels, Leeds had conceded 23 goals, a figure with relegation in mind.

But Scottish international winger Graham — he has ten caps — dismisses such talk with a sweep of his arm. "A poor team will get hammered wherever it

"And what a day that was. We beat Celtic 3-1 and I had a medal before I'd really learned how to play as a pro!"

It was not to be his last medal during seven years with Aberdeen. He faced Celtic again in 1976 and this time Aberdeen won the Scottish League Cup, winning 2-1 in extra-time.

'Tremendous'

"I joined Leeds in the summer of 1977 for about £125,000. Great things were in the air, but somehow we could not break through, in spite of having a tremendous squad."

"By the time Allan Clarke arrived

last season, things were bad. He had one hell of a job on his hands, but he got to grips with the task, instilled far more organisation and discipline into the team and we fought and battled our way out of relegation danger."

"Away from home we played very tight and earned a lot of draws. The critics complained, but they were being unrealistic. We played a style necessary to restore confidence and collect points."

"But this season our organisation has gone. We do have new boys in the side such as Peter Barnes and Kenny Burns. But they are both internationals, so that's no real excuse."

"No, I go back to my belief that confidence is the answer. Allan Clarke knows what he wants and I feel that it is only a matter of time before he gets it."

"All the same, with our strong home form, just one point per game away from home would represent Championship form!"

'We're too nervous'

admits Arthur Graham

plays, home or away. But we were unbeaten at home when our away form began to make headlines."

"Sometimes you hit a run of results which are difficult to explain. You cannot point your finger at one factor and lay blame. The team as a whole is to blame for mistakes."

"But it is more than just mistakes. Lack of confidence breeds nerves which in turn lead to small errors which can become costly blunders, and so on."

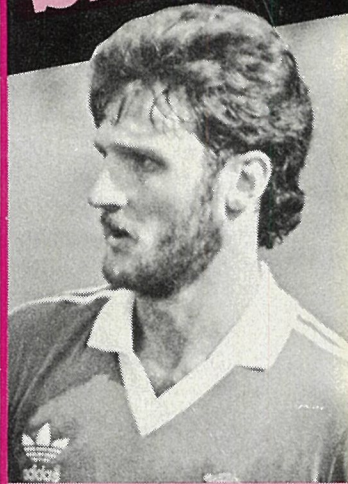
"Sometimes you see a team taking a real beating. Then that team scores a goal and suddenly becomes transformed into a dangerous and positive side. It only takes one break to give everyone a lift."

Graham knows all about nerves and confidence, because his career was only a matter of months old when he was pitched into a Scottish F.A. Cup Final.

"I was playing for Cambuslang Rangers in my native Glasgow when Aberdeen scouts spotted me and took me to Pittodrie. I was 17, raw and very excited. A few months later, despite not playing in any of the rounds leading to the Final, I was told to get ready for the day of my life at Hampden Park."



In next week's SUPER SHOOT



Garry Birtles and Frank Stapleton — one of soccer's DEADLY DUOS

CYRILLE REGIS — taking the 30-goal route to Spain.

RONNIE WHELAN — Liverpool's latest golden boy.

The James Gang Strikes Again — in the football crazy South Wales.

Colin Gibson's battle at Aston Villa.

EDDIE KELLY'S Leicester challenge

IN COLOUR

Argentina Superstar **DIEGO MARADONA** + Arsenal v. Notts County + Gary Hamson (Leeds) + Aberdeen and Blackburn team groups + Super Focus on Tony Grealish (Brighton)

PLUS . . . Stars comment on the World Cup Draw.

And much, much more in next week's SHOOT — it's a winner all the way!

**Super
Focus**

KEVIN BOND

Manchester City

FULL NAME: Kevin John Bond
BIRTHPLACE: London
BIRTHDATE: June 22, 1957
HEIGHT: 6ft 2ins
WEIGHT: 13st 7lbs
MARRIED: No
CAR: BMW 633 and Jaguar Mark 10
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Bournemouth, Norwich and Seattle Sounders
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE:
TURNING PRO: None
NICKNAME: None
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: All of them
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Trevor Brooking
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Steve Kinsey (Man. City)
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: West Ham
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Bobby Moore

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Tennis
OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE: Lester Piggott
YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI: Too many to mention in one team
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Scoring a hat-trick while in USA
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Watching Manchester City lose last season's F.A. Cup Final
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Liverpool

BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Dallas
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Dover sole and tea
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . .
DISLIKES: Good night out with friends . . . Ignorant supporters
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Stevie Wonder
FAVOURITE ACTOR . . .
ACTRESS: Robert Redford and Brooke Shields
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY

RESORT: USA
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'The Four Seasons'
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: M*A*S*H
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Doing nothing
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Have a guess!
SUPERSTITIONS: Always touch the match ball before kick-off
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England 'B' caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be wealthy and happy
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Greengrocer
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: No idea
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? No one really

Kevin Bond

Bobby Moore



Brooke Shields in her first starring role 'Pretty Baby'



SHOOT!